

Disclaimer: These minutes were prepared as a reasonable summary of the essential content of this meeting, not as a transcription.



MINUTES of the **Community Support Select Committee** Meeting held on Wednesday, January 27, 2021 at 11:00 a.m. via video conference.

PRESENT:

Voting Members: Councillor O’Connell (Chair)
Councillor Simpson (Vice Chair)

Non-Voting Members: V. Kipps, Community Services
B. Morgan, Manager of the Emergency Program,
City of Pitt Meadows
B. Schmahmann, Ridge Meadows Seniors Society
E. Seal, Friends In Need Food Bank
C. Shearme, Maple Ridge Pitt Meadows Katzie
Community Network
H. Treleaven, Seniors Network

Regrets: K. Sullivan, School District 42

Recording Clerk: T. McCaw, Committee Clerk II

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 11:00 a.m.

2. LATE ITEMS

None.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

There was general consensus that the Agenda for the January 27, 2021 Community Support Select Committee meeting be approved.

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

This is the inaugural meeting for the Community Support Select Committee.

5. NEW BUSINESS

(1) Introduction of the new Community Support Select Committee

Councillor O’Connell provided a brief introduction of the new Community Support Select Committee. Highlights included:

- Opportunity for various community outreach agencies to cross communicate using this Committee;
- Opportunity to discuss programs, challenges, and achievements; and
- Platform is open to all local outreach agencies who see this Committee as a beneficial way to discuss and share stories.

(2) Updates from Community Outreach Agencies

Community Outreach Agencies provided a brief verbal update of their efforts and experiences in response to COVID-19.

B. Schmahmann, from the Ridge Meadows Seniors Society provided an update to the Committee, some of the highlights included:

- Center is currently open with reduced programming;
- Concerns around homeless seniors in Pitt Meadows;
- Success in partnership with London Drugs during Christmas and supplying essentials for seniors in the community; will begin a similar campaign in July;
- Concerns raised around seniors in isolation;
- Volunteer program for wellness checks making 40-50 calls per week and growing;
- Community music program will begin again in the spring, will be playing music outdoors in the community;
- Connected with United Way Love Program; and
- Planning for another session of Conversation and Connection in the spring at Spirit Square; distanced, socializing, sitting outside under tents where people can come and connect with one another.

B. Morgan, Manager, Emergency Services provided an update to the Committee, some of the highlights included:

- Met with Fraser Health regarding potential vaccination sites for residents of Pitt Meadows and Maple Ridge;

- Spousal and child abuse has seen an increase of 400% along with an increase of suicide rates; and
- Working on putting together a suicide crisis plan.

H. Treleaven from the Seniors Network, provided an update to the Committee, some of the highlights included:

- Currently working on providing workshops and webinars to seniors to provide increased opportunity to connect;
- Over 300 seniors received turkey meals for Christmas;
- Will be delivering Valentine’s Day cards and cookies to 400+ local seniors this year;
- Currently running a seniors tech program with funding support from the Federal Government;
- Looking forward to Seniors Week in June; and
- UBCM grants opening in March for Age Friendly Projects; City of Pitt Meadows can apply for up to \$15,000.

C. Shearme from the Maple Ridge Pitt Meadows Katzie Community Network, provided an update to the Committee, some of the highlights included:

- Community Network is working on education around becoming a transgendered inclusive workplace;
- Free [Trans Care BC](http://www.phsa.ca/transcarebc/health-professionals/education) training
<http://www.phsa.ca/transcarebc/health-professionals/education>;
and
- Working with local immigration groups, receiving information on new comers coming into Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows and how to provide them information about services available.

E. Seal from the Friends In Need Food Bank, provided an update to the Committee, some of the highlights included:

- Food distribution to clients has significantly changed in response to COVID-19;
- Significant reduction in volunteers in 2020; however, in response to this, Hope for Freedom in Maple Ridge has provided a group who volunteer daily;
- Currently supporting four local food banks in Pitt Meadows and Maple Ridge which support approximately 3,000 registered clients monthly;
- Currently serving approximately 50 residents in Pitt Meadows and

- 42 registered clients in the Katzie First Nation;
- Working on a perishable food recovery partnership with six major food suppliers in Pitt Meadows which is allowing 53% of food that would historically be dumped into a landfill, brought back into the food chain;
- Experiencing an increase in donations from businesses and residents of Pitt Meadows;
- CP Rail donated \$7,500 to the Friends In Need Food Bank even though they did not hold the annual Holiday Train event; and
- New clients do not need to provide proof of income at this time.

V. Kipps from Community Services, provided an update to the Committee, some of the highlights included:

- Telus donated cellphones with minutes to Community Services for those in need;
- Community Chest, a partnership program between the Maple Ridge Community Foundation and the Maple Ridge Pitt Meadows Katzie Community Network which is a funding opportunity that can be utilized for individuals who need support for unique reasons as a last resort with funding up to \$750.00 per family and with serious situations upon approval up to \$1,000.00 per family;
- The Foundry Ridge Meadows, an onsite and virtual support for Youth;
- Open Closet, a campaign by the Foundry Ridge Meadows encouraging donations of new or gently used clothing for youth; and
- Seniors support groups using UBER Conference which is a party line where seniors can all talk on the phone together.

6. ROUND TABLE

Voting members and Community Outreach Agents did not engage in a formal round table discussion; rather roundtable discussions were had through item 5.2 of the Agenda.

7. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:51 a.m.

*The next meeting for the **Community Support Select Committee** is set for **May 26, 2021 at 11:00 a.m.***