

Minutes of the Acadia Road Combined Daycare Communicare Society

Sept 20, 2007, in the Administration Building

In Attendance (in bold; absent members are not in bold):

Infant Center		3-5 Centers	
Little Goslings:	Lisa Sundstrom (VP Advocacy)	Acadia:	Katherine Todd Millar (VP Advocacy)
Toddler Centers		Little Raven:	Ben Pfeiffer (Advocacy Webmaster) Maria Ezhova
Sitka:	Nicole Collard	Pacific Spirit/ S7UMUX Kindergarten	
Huckleberry:	Kelli Kadokawa (Fundraising)	Tillicum:	Paul Pavlidis (Webmaster)
Canada Goose:	Greg Feldman	Lluvia:	Jessica Irwin (Co-Secretary)
Discovery:		Barish:	Jessica Irwin (Co-Secretary) Brit Lampe (Fundraising) Mara Elwood
Lilliput:	Julie Bettinger (Co-Secretary) Jim Salzman	Summer of '73:	Julie Stitt (President) Karen Bakker Kristin Loheyde
Chuva:		Kids Club:	Annie Moradain
Staff		Other	
Director	Darcelle Cotton Bev Christian	AMS	Brandon Goodmurphy

Visitors:

Please ask your council rep or senior staff members for contact information if you have any questions.

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1. Review of the Minutes

Minutes: The minutes from the **June 21, 2007** meeting have been approved.

2. Introductions

See attendance of board members in bold on first page.

3. Administrators Report (Bev)

Traffic Construction: A roundabout will be put in at 16th avenue and Westbrook. Construction will start Monday morning at 8pm take about 4 months. So take alternate routes.

Kids Club: K.C. is currently operating out of the administration building, and it has been working quite well except for the crowdedness. Mid-October will be when we expect to move back to the new building. Construction should be done by end of month, and then need a few weeks to organize the inside and get final approval from licensing.

Fees: In the future there will be a new fee structure that prioritizes students, staff, and faculty. There will be a UBC affiliated rate, and if a family becomes no longer affiliated, then a non-affiliated rate will be applied if continue in care. July 2008 is the likely date this will go into effect. This will change fees midstream for some families. How many families would be affected by this? The change may be a surprise for some families since less than half will not have seen the new language in a contract. However, last year only eight out of 100 families were no longer affiliated. Bev will do the stats again in October. This would need to become a formalized UBC policy before it takes affect, so it will take some time. To check current affiliation, the office will verify student and employee numbers, and can do a match between childcare enrollment and current UBC status.

Enrollment: There is new language in the contracts about the “end date” for care (i.e. the oldest a child can be in the program). The new language is designed to make sure that the parents understand what happens next in the contracts—have the conversation up front at enrollment rather than at the end of a contract when there may or may not be space available at the next level.

Each year after enrollment is finished, we look at how many kids move up through May-Sept.

Total: 106 (these numbers are for the 12 month programs only)

Infant: 10

Toddler: 45

3-5 Centers: 51

Most of the toddlers moved into 3-5 centers and the infants into toddler centers. So there are only about 6 new families for 3-5 (a few toddlers may have left the system rather than moving to 3-5) and 35 new families into toddler programs. Offered three new families infant spots, and got some older infants into Huckleberry in May. 5 new infants started in May. Most new families are entering toddler centers.

Expansion news: We are waiting for the consultants and construction firm to be hired—the apartment buildings are empty and are waiting to be demolished. Heard from Jeff (AMS President)—he met with Linda Reid (BC Minister of State for Child Care) in the last few months to discuss provincial funding for the expansion. Her messages are mixed and unclear, but don't expect what AMS asked for in capital funds. UBC is very positive about moving forward on the project. The big question is whether the fifth daycare center (the infant center) will be built in this round.

Waitlist: The number of applications received from Jan-Aug 31 is 401, and the current waitlist is 1448. Will be doing a major cleanup of the waitlist to make sure that the names on the list are still waiting for spots.

Action Items: 1) Agenda item for a future meeting: Discussion of how family grouping at the new centers would affect kids moving through the system since children will only graduate from it in September when 5 years olds move to kindergarten.

4. Fundraising (Kelli)

Safeway and Stongs dollars: At a previous meeting we voted to do this fundraiser in Oct and March. Reps should remind parents that Safeway cards are also usable in the US if extended family and friends want to be involved in the fundraiser, and it is very easy now that the currency is about equal. Motion to do a fundraiser with Stongs and Safeway. Approved. Order deadline will be Oct 17, with card pickup on Nov 1 and 2. Will get volunteers to distribute the cards at the next meeting—ask the second reps.

Book: The Fright Before Christmas. The author is a friend of Kelli's, and it usually retails for \$12.95 and the author would allow us to use it as a fundraiser with a cost of \$6 for council, giving us a \$6.95 profit per book. One concern is that it is a Christmas book, but it is a good message about reading. Needs further discussion at next meeting.

Labels: "Loveable Labels" are microwave, dishwasher, and machine-wash proof labels made by a Canadian company. It is a great fundraising opportunity with minimal work for council—parents order online and give a code, and council receives a 20% profit on all sales. They also have shoe labels. Mables labels is a similar company in Australia, with more choices but less fundraising profit. This idea seems a bit closer to each family's daycare needs—everyone has to label their childrens clothes and food containers. Prefer a Canadian company. Discuss further at next meeting.

Action Items: 1) Kelli will email an order form and poster next week. 2) At next meeting, get volunteers to distribute the grocery cards on Nov 1-2. 3) Discuss book and labels at Oct meeting.

5. Review of financial statements (Jessica)

At the AGM in June, there was some confusion about the financial statements presented. There was \$3,847 difference in the Bingo Proceeds between March 2006 and March 2007, and the council didn't understand why it was on the balance sheet but not listed as a line item under expenses. After consultation with Marcel (our then treasurer) and Wolfgang (our accountant), the difference is accountable by three checks for equipment (musical instruments and movable parts) which were dispensed under the "Bingo" account, and the financial statement for March 31, 2007 is correct.

Motion to accept the financial statement for March 31, 2007 as amended. Approved.

Motion to pay Wolfgang Musslick \$265.00 for accounting for the 2007 fiscal year. Approved.

Action Items: 1) Julie or Jessica will sign check and mail to Wolfgang after finish signing authority at VanCity.

6. Parent Info Night (Maria)

Info Night is a once a year event organized for parents of 4 year olds to provide advice about registering their children for kindergarten programs. The date is set for Thursday, Oct 25, 2007, from 7-9 pm in the administration building. The Vancouver School Board spokesperson we having coming is Sylvia Helmer – the manager of the VSB District Reception and Placement Centre. She will talk for 20 minutes to explain the details of how to enroll our children in kindergarten, and we have invited all schools this side of Granville to send representatives (about 30 schools). So far, only 1 definite no (from a French immersion school) and 2 definite yeses. Last year there were seven schools represented with a mix of public and

private. The initial invitation was sent by email, and Reuben and Maria will be following up by phone in the next 10 days. We will also provide a list of daycare options around the various schools. Advertising: Maria will place posters in family housing in Acadia, and it will appear in the Resident. We should also put it into the Live@UBC and a flier up at the UNA Barn (Jessica). Call for volunteers to set up chairs and refreshments: Rubeen, Annie, Maria, Jessica.

Action Items: 1) Maria will follow up invitations by phone 2) Reps should place fliers in their centers and buildings if they live on campus. 3) Volunteers to help set up on Oct 25.

7. Work Plan for Fall 2007 and rest of year (Julie S.)

To provide an overview of our work plan for this year, we briefly reviewed the goals we set at the June AGM.

- Feedback on policies—need to have a robust discussion about this at future meetings
- 40th Anniversary party for 2009
- Fundraisers—a few years ago the swap meet only raised 500 dollars but it was huge amount of work. Yet it was a nice community event. Some families sorted and priced, and then donated the rest to charity. Do we want to do this again? Put on agenda for next meeting and gage interest at centers. If we do this, parents would need to volunteer a lot of time.
- Concert with Chris—this is a great community event. Maria will ask Chris if she is willing to do another concert with us in either November or late winter (Feb?), and check availability at the common's block.
- Traffic—3 or 4 parents at Summer are willing to help patrol traffic at drop off and pick up. The most common offenses are bad parking (suggestion that plant ops paint more lines at the Summer section of the road), speeding (UBC and UHill parents), unsafe U turns and poor driving. Julie will explore RCMP and ICBC options for assistance. Perhaps council could purchase a vest and signs for volunteers to use to help patrol.
- Recruit more student parents to council and advocacy—will be an October agenda item.

Action Items: 1) Discussion of possible swap meet on next agenda, and reps ask parents to gage interest. 2) Julie will help her volunteer parents explore options for traffic safety. 3) Discuss how to recruit more student parents and advocacy volunteers.

8. Advocacy (Karen)

Julie: (Karen could not attend, but she passed this request along.) Joyce Murray, the Liberal party candidate, would like to have a coffee meeting to discuss childcare with constituents of the Quadra Riding, and wants to know if the council would advertise and support such a meeting.

Discussion ensues about the appropriateness of the council sponsoring meetings with political candidates. The conservative party has not yet chosen a candidate, but if we choose to pursue this, we should make sure that all political parties are treated equally. The council should not sponsor a particular candidate, but as part of advocating for childcare at a provincial and federal level, we should take any opportunity possible to make sure that childcare is an important part of the platform for all political parties. Quadra riding also has a huge number of non-Canadian residents who cannot vote, so sponsoring meetings like this may be an important way for members of the UBC Community to make their voices

heard.

Jessica proposes a motion to host any Quadra candidate to have discussions about childcare and family issues. Passed.

Action Items: 1) Julie will contact Joyce, and contact advocacy. 2) Jessica will check with the Barn Community about room availability.

9. Miscellaneous

Fundraising money: Julie B. asks Bev to ask the staff for ideas about equipment that council could purchase for the gym so that centers don't need to carry things back and forth. Bev reports that all of the centers have put money in to spruce up the gym and make it look more attractive. She will ask staff to propose coming up with wish list of equipment and/or storage units for the gym.

Julie B. proposes a motion to commit to spending the money we raise with Daycare Dollars on gym equipment. The amount and exact equipment will be determined at a later meeting.

Action Items: 1) Bev will ask staff to propose coming up with wish list of equipment (and/or storage units) for the gym. 2) Debate equipment and dollar amount to spend on gym equipment at a later meeting.
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10. Set next meeting

Our next meeting has been scheduled for October 18, 2007 at 7:00 pm at the Main Office.