

Minutes of the Acadia Road Combined Daycare Communicare Society

September 15, 2009 in the Administration Building

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

Infant Centres:			
Little Goslings		Coho	Gracie Wood
Toddler Centres:		3-5 Centres:	
Sitka	Christina Hendricks (VP Advocacy, Faculty)	Acadia	
Huckleberry	Denise Pritchard	Little Raven	
Canada Goose	Scilla Tamás	Pacific Spirit	
Discovery	Sarah Elmendorf	Tillicum	
Lilliput	Karen Bakker	Lluvia	
Chuva		Barish	Sabrina Chen-See (Fundraising Chair) Darcy Cadre
		Summer of '73	Todd Handy Lisa Sundstrom (President)(regrets)
18 months – 5 years Centres:			
Salal	Eileen Hallam	Kittiwake	
Auklet			
Out-of-School Care (ages 5-12):			
Kids Club	Kristin Loheyde (VP Advocacy, Staff)		
Staff:		Others:	Timothy Chu (VP external, AMS) Brad Morrison (Child Care Commissioner, AMS)
Directors:	Darcelle Cottons Bev Christian		

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

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1. Introductions

See attendance of council members in bold on first page.

2. Minutes

Todd moved, Christina seconded accepting the minutes from our last regular meeting.

Minutes: The minutes from the **May 2009** meeting have been approved.

3. Welcome (Kristin)

Kristin – The purpose or role of the Council is to represent the parents of each of the Centres in the decision-making process of the UBC child care system. At a practical level, representatives should attend each meeting, and report back to the parents in his/her centre. Typically this involves disbursing the minutes from each meeting once they're approved. Each representative should also take note that how this is done varies across centres, so consulting with your centre director is advisable.

4. Open executive positions

Kristin – The need for a secretary was brought to the Council. Eileen Hallam agreed to take on the task for the year. A second position of import is fundraiser, usually handled by two people. This launched us into a discussion of what fund raising events we wish to proceed with this year. Sabrina Chen-See agreed to serve as one fundraising representative.

Action items: Parent reps: please announce to centres that we are still seeking an additional fundraising representative on council, as well as a webmaster and student VP for advocacy.

5. Fundraising

In regards to our traditional fall food card fund raiser, several new tweaks were suggested--most notably, seeing if Save-On (the new grocery tenant in University Village) would like to participate, along with the

long-standing twins of Safeway and Stongs. Other suggestions included (1) having the council buying the cards outright and selling throughout the year, in order to surmount deadlines imposed by Safeway, and (2) having a "contest" to give a little prize to the centre that sells most. Also discussed were what we could put the raised funds towards, such as helping to make the patch of forest outside Bev's office an interpretive garden of sorts for the children to enjoy/explore (and to keep high school kids from hanging out and smoking/littering/loitering). Karen Bakker suggested that we should inform the high school administrators and seek their cooperation in supporting this initiative. One of the centre supervisors has suggested council could purchase new speakers and an iPod docking station for the gym in the Admin building.

Action items: Sabrina to call Save-On to see if they're interested. For next meeting, our goal is to find out info on prices/discounts/deadlines for Stongs, Safeway, and Save-On. Parent reps please check with your parents to see if anyone has ideas for fund raising and/or what to do with the funds once we have them.

6. Administrators report (Darcelle/Bev)

Darcelle –The 40th anniversary party was a big success. A total of \$18k was raised for the party. Coho opened July 1, Auklet opened on August 24. The other news: UBC President Toope wants more childcare (100 spaces) up and running within 18 months. At a meeting recently he expressed that the next stage of planning for child care in the General Plan isn't going to happen soon enough. According to Toope, the number 1 priority for every group on campus is child care. Currently under possible consideration for hosting these spaces are the Old Barn coffee shop on Main Mall, space at base of Gage Towers, Koerner's lounge, and a renovation to main childcare office. There is also discussion of looking at support for in-home child care. These ideas will be presented to Board of Governors next week. For the next meeting: We will talk about the impact of Olympics on day care, as well as whether UBC Day Care wants to do something for the upcoming UBC United Way fund raiser. One possible example brought up: doing a toy/kids stuff "swap"

AMS reps — May 21-22 a conference on child care awareness, and child care on campus in general. Addressing the issue across Canada. Reason for conference: 40 years ago there was a conference here addressing these same issues, so now 40 years on the same issues remain. Time to revisit.

Bev – Enrollment. 106 full-time spaces opened between January-August. All new spaces full. The waiting list is now as such: (1. Infants) Prior to July only 10 spots for infants, and only siblings have had access (due to their priority placement). With Coho opening recently, there are now 10 more infant slots in the system, and so 5 non-siblings infant were placed, along with 5 sibling. Currently, however, we are still at about a 20 month wait for infant slots. (2. Toddlers) Current wait times for toddlers is now just under 2 years. Parents getting slots this September had been waiting 20+ months. (3. 3-5 spots): For kids born in 2006, there was a wait of about 14+ months; for kids born 2005, waits were only 5 months. (4. Entire system): In September, 2008, 1451 kids were on the collective waiting lists. This spring it went up to 1650 kids. Despite all the new centres opening over the past 9 months, as of September 2009 it's now at 1464 kids. In terms of current enrollment, 82 families have more than 1 kid in system, with 486 total families enrolled, both full and part time.

7. Kindergarten Parent Night (Kristin)

Kristin – This is a big information night on how to register for kindergarten, what the French immersion program involves, how to deal with cross-boundary applications, what things your kids need to enroll (e.g., inoculations), and the like. Julie Stitt (Lilliput parent rep) is working on this, and we will discuss it in depth at the October meeting.

8. Advocacy update

Kristin – Two issues to consider. First, the AMS is holding a conference on day care issues next May. They are holding monthly meetings, and ideally a representative from the Council would be attending. Second, there has been a reduction in the provincial minor capital funds allocations, from \$5k to \$2k. These funds have traditionally been used for small repairs in the centres. At the next meeting we will need to discuss whether we have a response to this cut by the province.

Action: Advocacy reps should coordinate to have one rep attend AMS conference planning meetings regularly. For next meeting's discussion: whether or not to mount some form of protest against the capital grant cuts.

9. Parking Reminders

Kristin – In the past, we have put fliers on cars from time to time in order to remind people to be careful and vigilant in their driving in the centre area. Three ideas to discuss for the next meeting: (1) would we like to have a traffic patrol of sorts, to monitor the area in the busy drop-off/pick-up times, (2) is there anything we can do to push for a more optimal timing for the "C" bus that connects Osoyoos Crescent with campus, and (3) would we like to push forward on the ideas raised last spring about how we might encourage more families to dispense with cars as a means of bringing their kids into the centres.

10. Miscellaneous

Kristin – Any new items? Response: none!

11. Confirm Next Meeting

Next meeting, October 13, 2009 at 7:00pm. NOTE THAT WE NORMALLY MEET ON THE THIRD TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH, BUT WILL BE MEETING A WEEK EARLIER JUST FOR OCTOBER.