

MINUTES OF THE ACADIA ROAD COMBINED DAYCARE COMMUNICARE SOCIETY

APRIL 19TH, 2011
Administration Building – 2881 Acadia Road

IN ATTENDANCE (IN BOLD; ABSENT MEMBERS ARE NOT IN BOLD)

INFANT CENTRES:			
LITTLE GOSLINGS	Sonya Cressman	COHO	
TODDLER CENTRES:		3 – 5 CENTRES:	
SITKA	Katy Thomson (Co-Secretary) Shi-Ling Hsu (Fundraising Chair) (regrets)	ACADIA	
HUCKLEBERRY	Marla Mickleborough (VP Advocacy, Students) (regrets)	LITTLE RAVEN	Christina Hendricks (VP Advocacy, Faculty) (regrets) Csilla Tamás
CANADA GOOSE		PACIFIC SPIRIT	
DISCOVERY	Maged Senbel Harjoat Bhamra	TILlicUM	Elinor Delgatty (VP Advocacy, Staff) (regrets)
LILLIPUT	Julie Stitt	LLUVIA	Melissa Johnson (regrets)
CHUVA	Miriam Pai-Spering	BARISH	
		SUMMER OF '73	Lisa Sundstrom (Secretary) Todd Handy (Treasurer) Hong Lin Jeannie Scarfe (Co-Fundraising Chair) (regrets)
18 MONTHS – 5 YEARS CENTRES:			
SALAL		KITTIWAKE	Yasmin Nassar Musarrat Nahid
AUKLET	Jen Lamont	OWL	Andrea Walus
PIOGGIA	Feng Liu	SANDPIPER	Ee-Seul Yoon Louise Mol
OUT-OF-SCHOOL CARE (AGES 5-12):			
KIDS' CLUB	Kelli Kadokawa (President)		
STAFF:		OTHERS:	Sedi Minachi (GSS)
DIRECTORS:	Darcelle Cottons Bev Christian		

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

MEETING AGENDA:

1. Introductions
2. Parking
3. Review of the Minutes (March 2011 meeting)
4. Administrators' Report
5. Advocacy: briefing
6. Webmaster
7. Misc.
8. Confirm next meeting

MEETING CONTENT:

1. INTRODUCTIONS

See attendance of council members in bold on first page.

2. PARKING

KELLI: I am pleased to introduce Debbie Harvie, Managing Director and Tyler Stangier, Facility Manager for UBC Parking. They have kindly agreed to attend our meeting today and answer our concerns about parking regulation changes near the daycares.

TYLER STANGIER: The new signage in the daycare zone as well as other areas of campus has been put in place largely in response to the lawsuit against UBC's parking enforcement practices. As a result of that, we have had to ensure that regulations are consistent across campus. We have heard from the council and Darcelle that there have been some concerns among parents that the 15-minute parking spots may not give them enough time to drop off children. This may result in undue stress leading into the work environment because of the pressure of having to deal with 15 minute dropoff limits.

DEBBIE HARVIE: We recognize that it is often difficult for people to drop off little ones quickly. We installed metre parking in many spots to accommodate those folks. It's intended to be blended parking to meet different groups' needs.

KELLI: I'll list some of the concerns we've been hearing and then other parents can jump in to share their experiences. One of the points is that parents are worried that 15 minutes isn't quite enough, and we'd like some kind of guarantee if we can have it that 15 minutes actually means 30 minutes as you've suggested informally in the past.

There are also safety issues in that many of the spots for daycares on the other side of the street are metered parking, so that if parents don't want to pay for parking, they need to park across the street and it's difficult to cross the busy street safely with kids, bikes, gear, etc. There is also no crosswalk anywhere in that vicinity.

Another concern has been that there aren't enough spots in general for loading and unloading at pickup and dropoff time, so parents either have to pay or park illegally. Tickets have been issued, so we know it's being enforced.

Special occasion parking is another concern. So maybe I'll open the floor for parents to share their particular concerns.

JEN: I am from one of the centres across the street – Auklet. Prior to the parking changeover, there were drop-off spots on the same side of the street as the centre. Now those spots are for staff and paid metres, and parents have to cross the road, in dark morning and night in winter. There are no crosswalks conveniently located in that area. So it's really a safety concern.

Debbie: The primary problem is lack of space in the area in general. We could change the meter parking spots into being dropoff spots, but then that would remove spots for people who need to park for, say, an hour.

JEN: During peak times, could meter spots be allowed to be dropoff spots? So they could be mixed-use spots?

Tyler: Anytime you make a stall mixed-use, it makes it difficult to enforce and you find that it becomes impossible to use for the purpose it was originally intended to be used for. But this may not be such a problem around the daycares because there's lots of supply. In the core of campus you have many groups vying for the same space. One of the issues in the lawsuit launched against UBC

was that we are now pushed to enforce consistency across areas of campus. We might be able to relax those guidelines here.

LOUISE: What about parent passes in window? 15-30 min is reasonable during peak hours.

KELLI: Metered parking is good for certain situations, such as times when children are undergoing gradual entry to centres.

DEBBIE: What are peak times?

KELLI: Generally we could say 8-9:30 and 4-5:30. Outside of that time parking supply is abundant.

DEBBIE: How long does gradual entry last typically?

LOUISE: 1-2 weeks. I as a person who pays \$100 a month already for parking would not like to have to pay metered parking in large amounts for the gradual entry week.

KELLI: The majority of daycare parents work for UBC in some capacity, but not everybody has a parking pass (puck).

DEBBIE: It's hard because one of the principles we're trying to adhere to people having to pay for short intervals of time that aren't regular. For gradual entry you'd only be paying for a very short term until you're in the regular 15-30 min dropoff spots once your child is acclimatized.

DARCELLE: It would be a very rare for a child to have difficulty for many weeks. Worst case may be times when a parent may incur 2-4 hours of parking per day for a week or ten days of gradual entry.

DEBBIE: In those cases if, e.g., it is an issue for a student without financial resources, Darcelle could inform us at Parking and we could reverse charges.

JULIE: I can see why it's reasonable for people to expect that they will have to pay extra out of pocket for a short-term expense. We're more concerned with the daily availability of parking on a regular basis. When the signs say 15 minutes people believe it's 15 minutes and there's a lot of parent anxiety I've heard about. Particularly if you have TWO children at different centres that you're trying to drop off in one parking stint. So how can people know for sure that they will not be ticketed until after 30 minutes?

DEBBIE: Could we have a pass that UBC Childcare Services provides to parents that says "parent parking," which would vouch for 30 minutes of parking in peak periods?

TYLER: We did this in Acadia housing area in a fire lane loading zone, to allow people to have parking nearby when unloading large items.

DEBBIE: We could make it annual and change the colour every year.

DARCELLE: It could be valid Sept 1 – Aug 31 each year.

JEN: Would this be valid in metered spots?

DEBBIE: It would be valid at peak times of 8-9:30 and 4-5:30 in metered spots as well as dropoff spots for 30 min of parking.

ALL: This sounds very reasonable. Thank you!

KELLI: Turning to special events parking. Almost every other place on campus has a parking lot nearby for large events. At this point there isn't a parking garage anywhere close to the daycares. I'm wondering if the loading/ unloading zones could be designated as parking for special events as well (e.g. potlucks, parent meetings, work parties). Perhaps we could notify Darcelle who would notify Parking that there's a special event that needs accommodation.

MAGED: Could we use the parking passes in evening to signal to enforcement staff that they shouldn't ticket at night?

DEBBIE: We would want to give enforcement staff clear and consistent instructions so there won't be any confusion.

MAGED: At what time does enforcement end? Could we park in 15 min spots after hours without risk?

TYLER: Our bylaws indicate 2 am as the end of enforcement time for all areas.

JULIE: The issue is that we are attending special events, having to park down the road in the childcare staff lot, and walking past dozens of empty parking spots. Seems not to make any sense!

MAGED: Could we have a parking permit for special events?

DEBBIE: Could we try for now using the orange lot beside the administration building and high school parking lot as well creating a special permit for staff to hand out for special events? As a trial for a few months? Staff would sign out a pack of special event passes for an event and write the date and hours on it.

BEV: We would inform Parking about the event to occur after being informed by staff, then staff would hand out permits for parents to use. Same style of passes for people moving into Acadia residences and parking temporarily in fire lane.

MAGED: At what point does this become too cumbersome?

DEBBIE: This would be for all-centre events only (entire centre holding an event). We'll try it for 3 months (through July) and see how it goes. What we want is for everyone to have access for everyone entitled to access on a regular basis in an organized and clear manner.

MAGED: We are concerned about safety as well. We should work to make sure that traffic calming and crosswalks are implemented that work well with the vehicle and pedestrian flow in the area. We have been in conversation with Campus & Community Planning to try to initiate some more traffic safety in the area.

DEBBIE: We could implement some traffic-calming measures to work on people's speed of driving. We'll have to keep our eye on the change of the high school (changing to elementary school) coming up and how that is going to affect parking and traffic.

DARCELLE: The new elementary school opening is targeted for 2013.

DARCELLE: There were minutes of a Community Liason Meeting that said they were finished with their speed survey on Osoyoos and found people were traveling 40-50% faster than the speed limit. David Grigg stated for the minutes that more traffic calming devices will be implemented.

TYLER: I sit on landscape committee that David Grigg used to chair and will follow up on this.

KELLI: Thanks so much, Tyler and Debbie, for hearing our concerns and being so accommodating.

3. REVIEW OF THE MINUTES (MARCH 15, 2011)

Maged moved, Jen seconded, thus accepting the minutes from our last meeting with 2 minor revisions. The minutes from the 2011/03/15 meeting have been approved.

4. ADMINISTRATORS' REPORT (DARCELLE AND BEV)

DARCELLE: A couple of things happening on campus. One is regarding fulfillment of the university childcare plan. Berwick childcare has come to the university and said that if they add one toilet per classroom, they will have capacity to add 6 children per class for a total of 24 additional spaces. They offered to open these spaces to university affiliates if the university pays for toilet installations.

We met with reps from an [unnamed] academic department who were interested in constructing a childcare centre in their department to satisfy demands and stress of faculty. We explained to staff how much is involved in starting and running a daycare, and they quickly backed off.

Remember the Childcare Steering Committee report to Stephen Toope a few years ago that came to recommend a goal of 1000 childcare spaces on campus. A steering committee has been implemented with Lisa Castle, AVP of HR, AVP of Campus Planning Nancy Knight, Managing Director of Housing and Hospitality Services Andrew Parr, myself and a few other people. The UBC VPs have asked us to be clear about whose responsibility planning for childcare is. So it's been decided that Nancy Knight (AVP CP&D) will be responsible for the University Neighbourhood Association component (e.g., the new community centre daycare planned to be run by UNA). UBC's Human Resources department will be responsible for monitoring in-home non-licensed care on campus since they are working with Westcoast Childcare Resource Centre already to provide resources and training for such daycare providers. And UBC Child Care Services will service the academic lands and relationships with the other existing on campus providers i.e. Berwick, Acadia Park Preschool.

Now 527 UBC Child Care Services (CCS) spots on campus. The University Services Building centre plus Ponderosa hub plus Law area hub are forthcoming in the next few years for CCS. The other campus providers including expansion of Berwick, UNA spaces, and 60 additional spaces of afterschool care with the expansion of the elementary school mean that by 2016 we will have 880 spaces on campus, reaching close to the university's 1000 space commitment.

LOUISE: Are you worried about your image inasmuch that if other providers are on campus they may be mistaken as being run by CCS?

DARCELLE: What worries us is that we have no influence over who the operators are. If they're for-profit, they will be taking 3-5 aged children (whose spots create revenues that subsidize Infant and Toddler care) out of the system.. We' would have to raise our monthly closer to full recovery rates to remain solvent.

KELLI: On the UBC Childcare plan web page, Darcelle is listed as the contact. Darcelle, you may want to change that so there can't be any confusion that Kids & Co as an option for campus communities is not UBC-CCS.

DARCELLE: I had no idea this was the case – I will follow up.

BEV: Families, please turn in your withdrawal forms asap if you are leaving the system. Diane [of Kids' Club] noted that offers for kindergarten spots only reached down to 2007 application dates and no later, which was the same year of application that received spots last year – that means that the wait list is even longer this year. Not as many student families as recent years in the incoming Kids Club/ kindergarten class.

The changeover of schools for campus children will be very tricky: VSB needs to make its decisions so that parents can make their decisions about where they'd like to be, so that CCS can make its decisions about how many spots we can financially feasibly offer.

ACTION ITEMS:

Darcelle to follow up on contact info listed in the Focus on People Childcare page on the UBC website.

Centre reps to remind families to turn in withdrawal forms as soon as possible.

5. **ADVOCACY**

DARCELLE: Advocacy reps if possible should write up information for parents concerning resources they can turn to for understanding where the political parties stand on childcare in the imminent federal and provincial elections. E.g. the Coalition of Childcare Advocates has good information.

KELLI: Christina sent a letter to Lisa Castles thanking her for her response on Kids & Co.

ACTION ITEMS: Advocacy reps should craft an email message to go out to parents regarding information on parties' positions on childcare for the upcoming federal and provincial elections.

6. WEBMASTER POSITION

KELLI: I wish to nominate Danny Yoo to be webmaster for the Council. He has all the skills and software he needs and is keen to help us out in keeping the website current.

Maged seconded the motion. The motion was adopted with all in favour.

7. MISCELLANEOUS

CSILLA: A couple of parents at Little Raven have suggested we should have a speed bump at the entrance to the parking lot loop where Little Raven and many other daycare centres are located. Also, for fundraising, Loveable Labels are expensive. Perhaps we should go with Mabel's Labels as an alternative vendor.

KELLI: No reason why we couldn't offer both to parents. There's no changed rate of return based on volume of sales.

YASMIN: Just for information, a group of parents are holding monthly fundraising bake sales at Acadia and will make our next sale's donation to the daycares. We have been giving to various causes and have chosen UBC daycare for the upcoming sale.

MIRIAM: There is no stroller parking at Chuva and this creates many inefficiencies for parents. It affects at least 20 parents each day.

DARCELLE: We were directed by the fire marshal to ensure strollers are no longer parked in hall ways and door entrances. Additionally we had to remove external covered stroller parking from the renovation plans because providing this much space was not realistic with the limited covered space available. We could probably get access bike rack (for security) and put an awning over to provide cover.

LOUISE: We could apply to the university's sustainability projects fund to get a grant to provide suitable parking.

MAGED: At Discovery after 3 strollers are there, no more room. If the university wants to encourage sustainable transport this is a good project to propose.

KELLI: We should come up with a list of projects to keep in mind for next year's funding projects.

BEV: AGM requires financial statements so Todd will have to have warning.

LISA: Also have to solicit nominations for new executive offices slate for election at AGM.

EE-SEUL: One thing that has come up among parents is vacation time at the new centres. Some parents were asking how flexible those dates can be.

DARCELLE: All new centres have it. The dates are set based on what seemed to be best for the most families (a couple of weeks in middle of August). You can take holidays of your own at separate times, but the centres will not be open during those weeks and you will pay for care during other weeks.

EE-SEUL: Is there any concern about gender imbalances in centres (if group dominated by boys, then girls feel isolated)?

BEV: No. We don't pay attention to that b/c would mean skipping over children of certain sex on the wait lists.

KELLI: Heartfelt thanks to Jim Johnson, who is leaving the Council, for all his work over the past few years.

ACTION ITEMS:

Louise to ask her husband at Plant Ops if they have a tarp they can spare for stroller lockup in the short term.

Fundraising chairs to arrange Mabel's Labels as a second vendor of labels for the council fundraising efforts.

Question of year's fundraising projects to be on agenda for next meeting as well as whether or not someone needs to write a grant proposal for stroller parking equipment via the sustainability projects fund.

Kelli should send out call for executive nominees well before AGM takes place in June.

Todd needs to prepare financial statement for AGM.

8. CONFIRM NEXT MEETING

Next meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 17th at 7 pm in the Administration Building [2881 Acadia Road].

All parents are welcome to attend.