

MINUTES OF THE ACADIA ROAD COMBINED DAYCARE COMMUNICARE SOCIETY

MARCH 15th, 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)	ACADIA	
HUCKLEBERRY	Marla Mickleborough	LITTLE RAVEN	Christina Hendricks Csilla Tamás
CANADA GOOSE		PACIFIC SPIRIT	
DISCOVERY	Maged Senbel Harjoat Bhamra	TILlicUM	Elinor Delgatty (VP Advocacy, Staff)
LILLIPUT	Julie Stitt	LLUVIA	Melissa Johnson
CHUVA		BARISH	
		SUMMER OF '73	Lisa Sundstrom (Secretary) Todd Handy (Treasurer) Hong Lin Jeannie Scarfe (Co-Fundraising Chair)
18 MONTHS – 5 YEARS CENTRES:			
SALAL		KITTIWAKE	Yasmin Nassar Musarrat Nahid
AUKLET	Jen Lamont	Owl	Andrea Walus
PIOGGIA	Feng Liu		
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. Review of the Minutes (2011/02/22 meeting)
3. Administrators' report (Darcelle & Bev)
4. Advocacy: Parking, Kids & Co. – Breifing (Christina, Elinor, & Marla)
5. Financial Goal Setting Report – Briefing (Shi-ling, Jeannie, & Todd)
6. New Parental Policy for Graduate Students - Update (Marla)
7. Roadside Safety – Briefing (Melissa)
8. Webmaster Position Open (Kelli)
9. Confirm Next Meeting

MEETING CONTENT:

1. INTRODUCTIONS

See attendance of council members in bold on first page.

2. REVIEW OF THE MINUTES (FEBRUARY 22ND 2011)

Christina moved, Andrea seconded, thus accepting the minutes from our last meeting with 2 revisions. The minutes from the 2011/02/22 meeting have been approved.

3. ADMINISTRATORS' REPORT (DARCELLE AND BEV)

DARCELLE: The daycares we had aimed to open have opened (Barish, Pioggia) and are full.

- We are currently working with the architect for the USB building. At present the fence is up.
 - This will be a 37 space centre for ages 18 months to 5 years old.
 - The hours are yet to be determined, though the aim is to have it open earlier and close later. However, this does not mean that children would stay the duration of the extended hours; parents will purchase the option to either start early or end late. The end result will still be the equivalent hours per child of the current multi-age centres. The logistics of this have yet to be determined.
 - This centre will be up and running by September 2011.
- The Ponderosa Hub is targeted for completion in 2013.
 - It will be another 24 spaces for ages ???
 - The hours are yet to be determined, though the aim is to have it open earlier and close later. However, this does not mean that children will stay the full time; parents will purchase the option to start early or end late. The end result will still be the equivalent hours per child of the current multi-age centres. The logistics of this have yet to be determined.
- UBC Childcare Private School Kindergarten is still in effect, though once the new elementary school opens it will depend on enrollment to determine whether it remains feasible.
 - It is necessary to have 27-28 children to ensure the financial viability of this program.
 - Todd & Jen: both feel that there are many parents who work at UBC but who are out of the catchment area who would still be willing to pay for this excellent kindergarten for their children. Neither feel that filling the spaces will be difficult, even with the new all-day kindergarten across the street, which purportedly includes 60 after school care spaces.
- Contracts for UBC Childcare staff are still in bargaining, though the mandate for 0%-0%-0% remains in effect.

BEV:

- We have been getting many calls from people trying to determine whether they'll get a space in the coming months.
 - Unfortunately nothing can be determined until withdrawals are processed.
 - Please kindly remember that parents intending to leave a centre are to give at least 1-month notice. Several months notice is also appreciated, if the family knows that far in advance.
- As of March 2011 just over 500 families were enrolled at UBC Child Care Services.

4. ADVOCACY: PARKING, KIDS & Co. BRIEFING (CHRISTINA, ELINOR, & MARLA)

PARKING →

KELLI:

- UBC Parking has now taken over parking and parking meters have been installed in the area.
- Tickets are being issued, though as far as we've heard they have been at the metered spots.
- The council sent letters in late January and early February to Danny Ho, the Director of Parking, and copied Debbie Harvie, the Managing Director, University Community Services.
 - We have to start copying president of university because this is a sensitive area.

CHRISTINA:

- We got a response to this letter today. Debbie Harvie would like to arrange a meeting with the council.
 - We should invite her to come to the next meeting. Alternatively, meeting at this area from 4:50 pm to 5:10 pm could strengthen our position.

MAGED:

- We need to determine what we, the council, want to achieve with this meeting.

CHRISTINA:

- Parking in this area needs to be treated as uniquely as the daycare itself.

KELLI:

- Maybe they can be accommodating in things like the evening, or relaxing patrolling
- Let's collect stories from the parents to share at the meeting
- What is our goal? What do we ultimately want
 - 15 minutes is not enough to support parents dropping off / picking up.
 - Would 30 minutes be enough?
 - How can we "Treat the parking here as unique as the daycare itself"
 - We are not asking to eradicate everything that has been implemented, but we do need some sort of accommodation for the unique situation in this area.

JEN:

- One of my major concerns, and a major concern of other parents I've spoken with, is that with the parking laid out as it is we have to cross the road with our children. This is a safety issue. It would be helpful if there were flexibility at the drop-off and pick-up times.
- Why can't the meters start later (after 9.30 am) and end sooner (4 pm)?

TODD:

- I'd be happy to go to the meeting with Debbie Harvie, but I would like to know how much they will be willing to discuss.

SHI – LING:

- Why do we need meters at all?

DARCELLE:

- Meters were intended to give parents and visitors a choice other than 15 minute loading zones. In this way Public Health Nurses, music teachers, and other visitors can come and park.

KIDS & CO. →

CHRISTINA:

- The response from the University for the letter the council sent was that they appreciate the constructive comments that we brought to their attention. They say that they remain unequivocally committed to UBC Childcare as per the Child Care expansion plan.
- UBC will apparently be evaluating the effectiveness of the membership with Kids & Co. later this year, and this evaluation will include the experiences of parents who have used the service.

DARCELLE:

- UBC is also investing in promoting the recruitment of License Not Required daycares on campus as another alternative.

MARLA:

- Let's ask UBC to include a Daycare Council Representative to this evaluation process so that there is more collaboration.
- Part of our concern was the lack of communication with respect to the signing the contract. This way we could be more a part of the process.

5. FINANCIAL GOAL SETTING REPORT BRIEFING (SHI-LING, JEANNIE, & TODD)

Gift Card Fundraiser:

- Last year we worked through Progressive Fundraising, with the intention of simplifying the process and to increase choice for parents. However they do take a cut and it is labour intensive to sort through and deliver the cards.
- The year before last we worked with only a few vendors and made approximately \$1,200, versus the \$1,500 we made this year with Progressive.
- Going forward it may be beneficial to return to using a few vendors and not paying the cut to a third party. The ones I've identified as being good sellers and with the highest payout

percentage are: Safeway, Stongs, Save-On Foods, and Choices (though Choices does have to be purchased through Progressive).

- Other good sellers were Starbucks and Chapters, though Starbucks has a very high minimum purchase.
- An idea is that we buy the cards and sell the cards to parents ourselves.
- The objective is to use the capital we have in the bank as the seed money to purchase the cards to generate a \$3,000 - \$4,000 per year stream of income to fund our Small Grants Program.

TODD:

- Why are we putting out money up front? Why not get the parents to pay for the cards we order?

SHI-LING:

- The idea is to minimize the work involved with taking orders and organizing how to distribute the cards once they arrive.

TODD:

- We need to finalize what our plan is for the money before we can really decide how to spend it.

DARCELLE:

- Centre staff like the Small Grant Program because it enhances their budget.

KELLI:

- We need to decide whether we'll reinstate the program, and then we can decide on criteria for how to distribute the money and on fundraising systems.
- Maybe there are other fundraising avenues that we haven't explored.

MARLA:

- What about refillable cards? Maybe that would be a way to still make the money but not have as much work involved.

KELLI:

- I think Elinor has a refillable gas card that is a fundraiser for her son's school.

Lovable Labels:

SHI-LING:

- We made \$600 from this fundraiser, so thank you to all the parents who participated 😊

ACTION ITEMS: Discuss criteria of small grant program and layout the plan

- Have someone draft a report on the criteria:
- Revisit fundraising at next parent council meeting

6. NEW PARENTAL POLICY FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS UPDATE (MARLA)

MARLA:

- This is a proposed policy for graduate student parental leave for both childbearing and non-childbearing parents.
- Currently the proposal is looking at 8 weeks leave from Teaching Assistant and Research Assistant duties while keeping their funding, access to medical care, access to childcare, and all the other benefits that come with being a graduate student.
 - CPTA, the UBC TA Union, already has 8 weeks of Hardship Maternity Fund for TAs, so they would just need to approve this.
- Another thing in the proposal is an automatic extension of 1 term for all deadlines, such as comps and defenses.
- There is still the option of taking a faculty of graduate studies leave of absence, but we are trying to find another way for parents to have leave without losing their student standing.
- Graduate students would still pay tuition and fees so could still do research and writing, but they would have fewer duties.
- The proposal looks very promising. It seems like something is going to happen. Now the key element is to set the parameters right so that this landmark policy is not a disappointment.
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7. ROADSIDE SAFETY BRIEFING (MELISSA)

MELISSA, via email:

- The RCMP is very receptive to concerns. There is a new community relations officer, though she was away at the time.
- The RCMP is amenable to patrolling the area for dangerous drivers.

ELINOR, VIA EMAIL:

- The U-Hill high school supervisor is committed to sending our flyer home with all the high school students.
 - Also will be posting on their website and emailing parents after spring break.
- The school bus pick-up area is a special concern of his and he would like this addressed in our flyer on roadside safety.
- Construction on the new school will start in the coming fall 2011. Workers will access the area primarily by the route behind the school near the church, though a presence can be expected on Osooyos as well.
 - The new school will be built around the old one, which will be torn down when the new high school opens.

MARLA:

- Maybe we can install pole banners on the lampposts along the Osoyoos strip. They are about \$150 each.
- These could present strong visual cues to help remind people to slow down.
- **Kelli**: We should talk to David Grigg about this; maybe the University would want to go in with us on this.

MAGED:

- Key problem areas are between Toronto Road and the high school, and when you first get off Westbrook before the fire station. It would be beneficial to mention that not all the areas are terrible, but that there are parts of the road that could be improved with respect to safety.
- **Kelli**: the area between Toronto Road and the high school is not UBC. Rather that area falls under the University Endowment Lands (UEL). We should talk with them to determine what their stand is on the roadside safety issue.

DARCELLE:

- Development permits for the new school have just been put up. Comments have to go through the UEL.

ACTION ITEMS: Talk with UEL about: signage; lack of parking planned for new school; how the tremendous increase in traffic volume will affect the entire area.

8. WEBMASTER POSITION OPEN (KELLI)

KELLI:

- We have two parents who have come forward for this position. To be able to do it the person must be able to operate from a computer on campus or to sign in via a VPN with a valid Campus Wide Login (CWL).
 - The candidate must also know Dreamweaver.

BEV:

- Maybe we can have both parents speak with Jim, our current webmaster, to discuss the position.
- We should also find out how long the parents will be with us.

KATY:

- Maybe the parents could split the position.

ACTION ITEMS: None at present

9. CONFIRM NEXT MEETING

Next meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 19th at 7 pm in the Administration Building [2881 Acadia Road].

All parents are welcome to attend.