

MINUTES OF THE ACADIA ROAD COMBINED DAYCARE COMMUNICARE SOCIETY

February 22, 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 (VP Advocacy, Students)	LITTLE RAVEN	Christina Hendricks Csilla Tamás
CANADA GOOSE		PACIFIC SPIRIT	Jim Johnson (Web Master)
DISCOVERY	Harjoat Bhamra Margherita Zorzetto Maged Senbel	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
AUKLET		Owl	Andrea Walus
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 (January 2010 Meeting)
3. Administrators' report (Darcelle & Bev)
4. Parking
5. Proposal of New Parental Policy for Graduate Students (Marla)
6. Advocacy: response letter re: Kids & Co. membership (Christina, Elinor, & Marla)
7. Financial Goal Setting Continued
8. Roadside Safety Committee briefing
9. Webmaster position open
10. Miscellaneous
11. Confirm Next Meeting

MEETING CONTENT:

1. INTRODUCTIONS

See attendance of council members in bold on first page.

2. REVIEW OF THE MINUTES (DEC 14TH 2010)

A few minor stylistic corrections were suggested. Elinor moved, Julie seconded accepting the minutes from our last meeting with these revisions included. The minutes from the January 18, 2011 meeting have been approved.

3. ADMINISTRATORS' REPORT (DARCELLE AND BEV)

Darcelle: We were struggling to find a new senior supervisor for Barish as it opens post-renovations. We have now selected Azam from Coho/ Little Goslings to be head supervisor at Barish. The centre will open March 1 with 18 children (3-5 licensed centre but being opened as "tweenie" program with 7 children aged 30-36 months to cover the gap when families often fall through a crack in the wait list since they are too old for toddler centres but too young for 3-5 centres). Recruiting staff has become more and more difficult – Darcelle feels like she's exhausted the market for high-quality staff. Only way to attract people is with innovative programming and greater wages – but we are in a 0-0-0 bargaining environment for wages, so there is not much that can be offered in that respect.

Bargaining for a new staff contract is occurring now and it is very tense even though wages are not on the table.

New parking regulations: Darcelle doesn't have any power over this – this is all UBC Parking Services' ambit.

Darcelle was called recently by a Ubysey reporter re: UBC's possible move to the trimester system for the academic year and what the ramifications might be for childcare. Darcelle responded that she did not think there would be many consequences since people will not be removing their children from childcare and trying to re-enroll them at other times of the year due to the wait list. In fact, the trimester calendar might smooth out use of childcare services by families more evenly over the year.

Bev: Very few spaces opening up now for new child enrollments (just one for April). 6 weeks' notice of families planning to leave is extremely helpful for planning. There are still 1500 people on the wait list.

Lisa: Does this at least show some slight improvement since the list is no longer growing? Has it put a halt to growth in wait numbers?

Bev: Yes, this is true. One year in the early 2000s, the list went from 400-800 in a couple of months, then to 1600. This is due to hiring of new faculty and more families residing on campus. At least now we appear to be in a holding pattern at 1500.

Fee increase: As of July 1 infant care fees will increase by \$150; toddler care by \$100; 3-5 care by \$60; preschool and Kids Club by \$10.

<p>ACTION ITEMS: Parent reps, please encourage families in your centres to give as much notice as possible prior to exiting the childcare system as this helps Bev and new families entering the system.</p>

4. PARKING

The parent council has not received any response to three emails Kelli sent to Parking Services regarding our concerns about parking regulation changes around the daycares. Kelli mentioned that UBC daycare is a special place on campus and there are lots of family events like potlucks and meetings – it would be great if some exceptions be made. 15 minutes isn't doable if you have two children to drop off at different centres.

Elinor: Ridiculous. We are going to keep complaining until we are included in the discussion.

Julie: This is appalling – Parking should consult with people affected by their decisions. They are moving ahead despite our efforts to create a dialogue with no response. People should not have to

choose between a crying child and a parking ticket. There is no time to have conversations with staff under a 15 minute timeline. They say that informally the timeline is 30 minutes, but we do not have this in writing so how do we defend ourselves against potential tickets?

Christina: I can raise a stink about it as a faculty member if council members who are staff don't feel comfortable doing so.

Todd: People are never happy with parking so it's not surprising that UBC Parking is not responsive to complaints.

Lisa: Who's the VP in charge?

Julie: Pierre Ouillet – he seems very responsive to me. Also Debbie Harvie who is managing director of all associated services in which parking is included.

Shi-Ling: We may be able to get the VP to understand that this is a simple problem that could be resolved with a simple solution.

Todd: Could we have a sticker system for daycare families to put on their windshields that would allow 30 min parking and no fees after 6 pm?

Christina: Advocacy reps can request a meeting with the VP to discuss this.

Bev: Is the parking availability better at least with the new regulations?

Elinor, Kelli: It does seem that parking is less crowded with staff not parking in the generally available areas.

ACTION ITEMS: Kelli will forward her letter and communication string to Christina and the other advocacy VPs. Advocacy VPs will contact Harvie and Ouellet from there to request a meeting. Begin with an email and then follow up with phone call if necessary.

5. PROPOSAL OF NEW PARENTAL POLICY FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS (MARLA)

Marla: Faculty of Graduate Studies seems to be taking this seriously. Marla met with Assoc Dean of Grad Studies and Assistant Dean of Grad Studies. The proposal currently is for 6 weeks of funding extension for new parents. FoGS suggested they could implement several points on their own quite easily. Basing principles from Berkeley. E.g. accommodation period with mandatory extension of deadlines. Basic package: one year extension on all program deadlines for birth mothers; 6 months for other parents. Also a 6-month relief from RA or TA duties and university would have to fund wages of a replacement TA as well as developing a scholarship fund to extend student fellowships by this amount of time. Nature of leave would be different from other student leaves so that you could retain valid student status without paying tuition and with an option to retain healthcare and student services. UBC could be the first university in Canada with this kind of policy. We are meeting again March 8. It's moving more quickly than I expected.

Marla has a letter drafted for general council support of a policy to push the process to concluding a policy for now; we can have a more general response to the specific policy proposal once it is developed.

Kelli, Christina, and Elinor all agreed to be listed on the letter as approving on behalf of council (as advocacy reps and President).

Elinor: Some of these accommodations are happening within departments informally, but a policy is really needed to make it uniform for all students.

Darcelle: This is a good time to be solidifying this policy since AMS and GSS officers change soon and they may be eager to solidify support by working effectively to develop this kind of policy.

Julie: Would be nice to see this as a Senate University-wide policy so that students not governed by FoGS will fall under the policy (e.g., Medicine, Law).

Elinor: Would be good to see a policy roll out for undergraduates as well, who have different funding scenarios and often quit university altogether after a pregnancy.

Kelli moved to have all of council endorse the policy rather than just VPs. All voted in favour.

ACTION ITEMS: Marla to send letter to FoGS on behalf of Council and continue with FoGS discussions at March 8 meeting.

6. ADVOCACY: RESPONSE LETTER RE: KIDS & CO. MEMBERSHIP (CHRISTINA, ELINOR, & MARLA)

Elinor: Our letter opposing the Kids & Co childcare contract went out to university officers last week. No response yet from them to council.

We've started thinking about next steps and whether we should perhaps write short pieces for the faculty and staff employee group newsletters. We are going to let response develop for a few weeks, though, and see what happens. We also need to find out more specific details about the contract before making more of a fuss.

Todd: Do we know whether or not anyone is using Kids & Co via the UBC contract yet?

Christina: No, but I'm sure we could find out. The only current existing centre is in Richmond.

Julie: Who is actually managing this contract on behalf of the university?

Christina: Lisa Castle (VP), but Michelle Berner is the person I spoke with directly who has given me information.

Darcelle: the BC Federation of Labour recently issued a report for their AGM that included a number of childcare-related goals to advocate for childcare policy for the country and to oppose for-profit childcare. The report specifically mentioned UBC as a warning sign.

Elinor: Lisa and I met with a Focus on People report contract writer who is writing a story on childcare. We discussed the Kids & Co issue as much as possible but are not sure this will make it into the university publication.

ACTION ITEMS: Advocacy VPs to monitor response to letter and contemplate writing short articles for employee group newsletters on campus. Attempt to obtain concrete details of contract with Kids & Co.

7. FINANCIAL GOAL SETTING

Bev: I talked to staff regarding funding needs. They do actually appreciate the small grants that the council was supplying last year and would like to continue that – it helps them significantly for centre needs. In terms of big-ticket collective items, the first item that came up is the big playground at end of building, which really needs replacing. That yard was never really developed coherently and needs some updating and development.

The second priority is the area behind Bev's office where high school kids smoke: want to fence it in.

Todd: There was an idea for an interpretive garden that we approved last year but then delayed starting work on due to renovations in the main childcare office.

Shi-Ling: We can't afford to continue small grants at our rate of current fundraising. The fundraising company we've been working with takes a significant margin from the profits and we don't make that much money. We made more money earlier by just working with Safeway and Stongs and doing the labour ourselves. If we returned to that with perhaps a few more retailer options and did it 3-6 times a year on a routine basis, we could raise significantly more money. If we went in this direction, we might need initial start-up money to get it going.

Elinor: I've been looking into this for my centre Tillicum to explore other options for fundraising. I researched a number of options. Reloadable cards (Gas, IGA) would be good to continue the margin coming to council, since we would earn money whenever people add money to their gift cards.

Kelli: Julie also suggested last meeting that we could do a huge fundraiser and make a lot of money all at once.

Julie: We need to figure out how much money we need as a contingency fund to base fundraising or to answer any emergencies, then decide how much we can spend and how much we need to raise. One of the issues is that parents don't really understand what they are giving for and what council's fundraising goals are. Many centres already fundraising on their own for small needs.

Todd: I keep wondering about a completely different model similar to what we did for the 40th Anniversary party, where we asked various offices across campus for funds and money just flowed to us. That was for a party! Could we not ask for money for playground development?

Elinor: Various companies (e.g. Home Depot, Rona) will fund playground development.

Melissa: Do we really want corporate names at UBC daycare? UBC daycare is a nice oasis from that.

Marla: How much money do we really need? What are our goals?

Darcelle: We could easily spend \$50K per year on playground revitalization alone and this amount would only upgrade one or two play yards per year.

Elinor: UBC Development support would be great to tap alumni to give for playground development.

Lisa: We need to settle exactly what our goals could be that would be needed, valued by parents and staff, and not doable by centres individually. Playgrounds are one of those needs.

Elinor: I've noticed infrastructure of the centres declining and they need some repairs, renewal and maintenance. That is something we can contribute to.

Bev: In the playground yard off the end of the admin building, the climber needs redoing as well as the fall zone around the climber and enlarged portion of yard. Easily \$10,000-20,000 could be spent on this.

Julie: I'd like to see a report from the Fundraising Chairs proposing ideas for fundraising and what kinds of efforts are needed to raise how much money. If we could raise a lot more with not much more effort, then we would know how much we are capable of spending on projects.

Kelli: Could the fundraising co-chairs put together a report on what we are capable of earning with how much effort? And work in tandem with Treasurer to figure out what we can fund with that? What base float amount do we need to keep up fundraising activities? What are costs of the specific goals we might have such as a playground per year?

Shi-Ling: Yes, we will do this.

<p>ACTION ITEMS: Treasurer and Fundraising co-chairs to work together to develop a report that considers efficient fundraising options and what amount of money council could conceivably spend on projects per year ongoing.</p>

8. ROADSIDE SAFETY COMMITTEE (MELISSA)

Melissa: I feel very strange that I live on campus and UBC is rather like the Wild West with no real governance structure that one can hold accountable.

The committee has been looking at models of traffic signs that are used in other areas and how much it costs to order them. Ideally would like to have some colourful kid-friendly characters on them to attract attention. Should we acquire attached signs or sandwich boards? Council members agreed that attached signs would be better as they wouldn't require extra staff efforts to put out and remove

sandwich boards each day.

The committee is going to develop a road safety information flyer to distribute to families in UBC childcare and campus schools based on information from the city of Richmond road safety website outlining road safety concerns and associated fines for infractions.

RCMP could possibly set up a digital speed monitoring station that shows cars' speeds as they drive by. Also if they could issue tickets from time to time in the area, this could help. Melissa will liaise with the RCMP community relations officer.

Kelli spoke with David Grigg of Campus and Community Planning. He was the person who conducted the speed survey. Melissa feels there needs to be another crosswalk along Osoyoos Crescent heading towards Thunderbird Blvd as well as speed limit signs along the road coming from Thunderbird. Kelli forwarded David an email from Melissa in the fall outlining her concerns but did not receive a response.

Yasmin: I've also been seeing coyotes around a lot recently.

<p>ACTION ITEMS: Roadside Safety Committee to continue honing ideas for appropriate signage along Osoyoos Crescent to calm traffic. Melissa to continue to pursue David Grigg to pressure Land and Building Services to develop crosswalk and signage.</p>

9. WEBMASTER POSITION OPEN

Kelli: Jim must step down as webmaster and we need a replacement. If you know of anyone who can take over this position for council please let me know. Talk to your centres to search for possible people. Perhaps staff at unrepresented centres could poll for parents to get involved.

<p>ACTION ITEMS: Parent reps please ask your centres if any parents are interested in joining council as web master. Kelli will send a list of unrepresented centres to Darcelle in order for her to ask senior supervisors.</p>

10. MISCELLANEOUS

Shi-Ling: Lee at Little Raven has been asking about the possibilities for acquiring internet connectivity at the centres.

Bev: We've been pressing for information from UBC Housing for a few months.

<p>ACTION ITEMS: Bev and Darcelle to continue to press UBC Housing to establish internet connectivity for the daycare centres.</p>

11. CONFIRM NEXT MEETING

Next meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 15, 2011 at 7 pm in the Administration Building [2881 Acadia Road].

All parents are welcome to attend.