



**Southeast Vancouver Seniors Arts  
And Cultural Centre Society**

**S-53479**

**Meeting # 66**

**Champlain Heights Community Centre**

**Wednesday Sept 8, 2014 at 10:00AM**

[www.SVSACS.org](http://www.SVSACS.org) – 604-325-0163

**Our Goal: a Dedicated Seniors Centre**

**Minutes**

Present: Lorna Gibbs, George Grant, Philip Mah, Tom Chin, Ramesh Kalia, Keith Jacobson, Sharon Tong, Mohinder Sidhu, Mabel Leung, Margaret Homonnay, Nelson Didulo, Belen Domingo, Manfred Hagen, Eddie So, Roy & Margaret Wickland, Barbara Warner, Wendy Emslander, Abdul Shaikh,

1. Call to Order – 10:00 am Lorna Gibbs in the chair
2. Approval of Agenda – moved by Mabel Leung, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Barbara Warner, carried.
3. Approval of Minutes of Meeting 65 – moved by Abdul Shaikh, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Nelso Didulo, carried.
4. **President's Report**

Directors not listed at AGM were appointed to serve for one year including: Donna Davies, Pat Diebert, Joan Wright and Mohinder Sidhu. These directors will serve until 2015 AGM.

**SENIORS CENTRE:** - no good news to report...

We received a copy of the requested City Manager's memo from Councillor Louie. It was circulated. The memo was an attempt to clarify the timeline and construction plans presented by the Councillor at SVSACS' AGM on June 19<sup>th</sup>. Unfortunately the memo is couched in terms that, once again, leave us with questions and no one to meet with for answers nor have we had the benefit of any formal consultation.

A follow-up phone call from Councillor Louie advised that the Mayor's motion to dedicate \$1.2M dollars had been taken back so many important features would not be built. Cllr Louie also read out the features provided by Kerrisdale Seniors Centre as listed in the Feasibility Study as being the plan for Killarney's Seniors Centre. Although the total square feet of space is the same, the needs of the two communities are quite different and we deplore this approach. Certainly consultation is needed now!!

This information was very disappointing as we had been assured the money was still available. See interview with Vancouver Courier, July 31, 2014, where Councillor Louie is quoted as saying, **“The allocation by Council still exists today but the City Manager doesn't believe, based on information from our survey analysis, that it's necessary.”** Of course, we haven't seen the survey analysis nor do we have any idea what or who was surveyed. See also press interview with Jeff Lee of the Vancouver Sun in April 2014 **“the city won't claw back the additional amount it pledged now that B. C. has chipped in the full contribution.”** (Copies of both articles attached.)

The City Manager's decision therefore has cut needed amenities that we strenuously advocated in presentations to Council and to the Parks Board. These include:

- Improved easier access to Seniors Centre with parking to eliminate long walk to entrance
- Covered, secured outside parking for large scooters and large mobility chairs (muddy wheels)
- Roof deck

We know the City staff's plan will not meet the needs of this community's seniors.

And still no consultation!!

- City manager's memo to council indicates the City plans to communicate with the community during construction by using a web site– this is one-way top-down dictation. It is not dialogue and it is not consultation. The plan is not satisfactory.
- Letter from Minister Lebel (attached) notes the funding process is the same as many other projects funded by the federal government and should not present problems. The Minister also notes the *construction start date of 2016 was specified by the City*. We still have no explanation of why that date was set by City staff and want to see it moved to 2015.
- MP Wai Young and Hon. Suzanne Anton MLA remain very supportive and they too would like to see construction of the Centre begun as soon as possible

After conferring with seniors' leaders and stakeholders at Killarney and South Van Neighbourhood House, SVSACS was asked to contact all candidates in the upcoming election to establish what their positions will be with regard to replacing the \$1.2 M. in funding for the Seniors' Centre construction. This will be done very soon and responses will be shared in their entirety with the community.

## 6. Presentation Workshop by Lu Sitosky of COSCO on *Handling Money*.

### Synopsis:

- Canadians are living longer...you want your money to last.
- List your income and expenses;
- Create a budget and set financial goals.
- Short Term goals - Up to one year; Intermediate 1-5 years; Long-term over 5 years.
- Types of expense: Fixed (same each month); Variable.
- Have an emergency fund.
- Live within your means.
- Stay out of debt. Pay credit card balances off when received.
- If in debt list them and the rate of interest you are paying and create a plan to pay debt off starting with the debt with the highest interest rate.
- Use coupons and take advantage of seniors discounts offered by many merchandisers.
- Resist impulse buying; Comparison-shop; If possible wait for things you need to go on sale.
- List your assets (Home, bank accounts, investments, auto(s), etc.)
- If eligible defer consider deferring Property Tax. **Avoid reverse mortgages.**
- Exercise regularly and eat healthy foods.
- Be mindful of energy...eg: turn lights off when not required, etc.
- File an income tax return to ensure you get all available refunds and grants.
- Be informed. Resources are available at Service Canada 1-800-662-6232 or [www.seniors.gc.ca](http://www.seniors.gc.ca)
- BC Government [www.seniorsbc.ca/finances/](http://www.seniorsbc.ca/finances/)
- Ms Sitosky handed out the attached *Lessons from an unexpected death*.

- Low income seniors should ensure that they are properly registered for PharmaCare and Medical Services (MSP).
- No MSP premium if family income is \$22,000.00 or less. Family incomes between \$22,001.00 and \$30,000.00 qualify for premium assistance on a sliding scale. More information at: <https://www.health.gov.bc.ca/exforms/msp.html>
- PharmaCare deductibles vary with income. See [www.health.gov.bc.ca/pharmacare](http://www.health.gov.bc.ca/pharmacare)

7. New Business – None

8. Adjournment – 11:30 am

Lorna reminded members to print the Agenda and Minutes and bring them to our meetings.

**2015 Membership fees \$5.00 are now due.**

Next movie: October 06 *QUARTET* with Maggie Smith, Comedy, runs 98 minutes. PG1  
Luncheon registration

Next meeting: October 08, 10:00 am at CHCC

**Note change of start time to 10:00 am and move to Wednesday** in the Upstairs Lounge Champlain Community Centre.

**SVSACS PARTNERS are all working together to get a real Seniors Centre for you!**

