

Minutes of Meeting		
Location: Sparwood Chamber of Commerce	Date: June 21, 2017	Time: 8:00 – 10:00 a.m.
Purpose: Steering Committee Meeting 2017 Q2	Version: Final	
Attendees: See attached	Issue date: October 4, 2017	

Meeting commenced at 8:05 a.m.

Welcome, Housekeeping, Safety Share

Simon welcomed those in attendance and noted that there will be First Nations representation on the Steering Committee going forward. Sharon met with Vickie Thomas who is looking forward to being on the Committee.

Anita pointed out where the restrooms were and, in the event of an emergency, where the exits were.

Simon shared a safety concern that arose from moving into his new house. A barrier for stairs had been removed and he tried to find out how to deal with an open staircase to provide safety to those who may be using them. Temporary fall barriers must be installed.

Review of Agenda

The agenda was reviewed and there were no additions or changes.

Objectives Update

Childcare – Anita shared a copy of the Child Care Resource Pamphlet created by Phoebe Scotland made possible by the BC Rural Dividend Funds grant. A discussion was had regarding locations for placement of the brochures. Doctor’s offices, public health units and schools were suggested.

Amy said that Danielle Charlebois, the owner of A Place to Play now has 15 children on her waitlist, down from 46. Although there are other factors (children are attending another care facility) she believes the number is down in great part as a result of the expansion of her business and flexibility of her hours.

Anita heard that Merreta Pater may be opening a daycare in Fernie.

Youth and Local Employment – Simon’s recollection of discussions around youth and employment at Teck was that a simple roadmap to becoming an employee at Teck was to be created. There is still the feeling in the communities that Teck doesn’t want to hire local young adults. Amy pointed out that there isn’t an easy roadmap but some things are a requirement such as a high school diploma or GED and a valid Driver’s License. Teck strives to hire people from the Elk Valley but they must hire the best person for the job. They receive 1600 – 1800 resumes per week. Having 1-3 year’s work experience, prior to applying, will help. This is told to applicants when they call in. The best thing they can do is to create a job history. Amy did note that Teck was turning towards values-based hiring. When asked how long resumes are kept on file and if people should apply once or twice a year, Amy said she will find out. She added that when people apply for a specific job, their resumes may not be brought forward for other postings.

Lois said parents often send their kids out on their own when they are 18 after having been served life on a platter. Perhaps their expectations are too high and they aren't willing to put in the effort required to get a good job.

Andrew confirmed that some kids just want to work at the mine after high school while others go off to post-secondary school. He added that he is in Grade 11 but has only just started thinking about what he wants to do or be. Simon agreed that some students are ready for post-secondary when they graduate high school. Scott added that post-secondary schooling helps create values.

Amy reiterated that it is important for young people to build their values and gain experience. Most applicants don't have relevant heavy equipment experience.

Amy suggested that to move forward, someone on the committee needs to speak with school councillors to let them know that if there are students interested in working for Teck, a Teck rep can come to speak with them.

Healthcare – Janice told the group that a Healthcare Task Force meeting was held in March with herself, Lois, Kerri, Anita and Sharon present. After discussion, it was felt that a focus on poverty in the area was relevant and valuable. They would like to flush out this topic and how it affects the health of people living in poverty. Kerri said that a lack of well-paid jobs is a contributor to poverty and lack of proper health care. Rather than call it poverty, we often mask the issue by breaking it down to being childcare issues, a lack of affordable housing and healthcare shortfalls. A living wage is \$17/hour so minimum wage is not supporting people to be above the poverty line. Looking through a poverty lens when considering childcare, healthcare, general housing and senior housing will provide a different perspective.

The search for a surgeon for the Fernie isn't going well but local doctors are looking at what surgeries they can perform. Also being considered is the possibility of physicians coming from Cranbrook to perform surgeries. Births can still take place in Fernie with the local doctors able to perform caesareans. Invermere does not have an OR but they maintained their hospital.

Janice was pleased to share that a number of Health Care Aids were hired by Home Support bringing them to full capacity for the first time in a long time.

Also to note is that Karen Morash will be taking over from Shirley Mercier as Elk Valley Hospital Administrator.

Lois asked about the Community Paramedic program. Paramedics will receive additional training so they can perform care in home for those who don't qualify for Home Care. They will be the eyes and ears that will health information about individuals back to the Health Care Team. Sparwood has two and Elkford has one. The job is still evolving. The program will stabilize the paramedic workforce while improving community care. Funding for this comes from the Province. The requirement for a community was that there was an ambulance station and all the paramedics were casual.

Janice was unsure if the community paramedics are able to take blood but they can assist those with COPD, diabetes and congestive heart failure.

Post-secondary Education – Anita said the plan to revamp the Fernie Campus building is moving forward. An architect visited the campus to create a draft. Simon had no additional information regarding the potential partnership with UBC.

Housing – Simon discussed market rental housing for those people who can't afford a down payment and aren't sure for how long they plan to stay. A CBT study identified a shortage of mid to high end rental accommodations. These have not been built in the area because the return on investment (ROI) is

not yet there. Columbia Basin Trust (CBT) recently put out a Request for Proposals to builders for market rental units. This would be a joint venture where CBT will cover the difference between ROI and the cost to build. Currently CBT is partnering Parastone.

Community Safety – Scott noted that the main safety focus this time of year is on flooding. Sand-bagging stations have been set up. He feels we are past the critical stage for flooding but he cautioned everyone to be aware of the dangers of the creeks. One should not go near the water alone and everyone should wear appropriate personal flotation devices.

Scott added that Fernie Search and Rescue just acquired a fixed line which allows for helicopter rescues without having to hover. It can be used from Invermere through the Elk Valley. Training will commence soon.

Old Business

Action Items Review

Retiree benefit information – Amy confirmed with site clerks that retirement meetings occur and three different letters are sent out to retirees with contact information regarding their benefits. If all else fails, retirees are encouraged to call the Human Resource department at the operation where they last worked.

Wall of Wins - has been provided to Claris by Sharon for uploading to the website.

Safety blog – Scott prefers that, rather than a safety blog which becomes dated quickly, a safety page be created on the website to provide a single source of the truth for Elkford, Sparwood, Fernie and the RDEK. This is where one could go for links and information relevant to regional emergency responder information.

All of the new action items from the previous meeting regarding the upcoming Partners meeting were completed by Sharon.

New Business

Teck Feedback Received – Amy provided the information for Sharon that feedback was provided in five instances in Q2. They all related to the bird deterrent cannon that Elkview Operations put in place as required by the Migratory Birds Act. Unfortunately the model that was put in place was very loud and startled people and animals and disturbed sleep. Elkview acted quickly and replaced the unit with one that did not cause these issues.

Teck Announcements/News Releases – Amy indicated there were three announcements to note: Teck's 2016 sustainability performance report is complete and accessible online / Greenhills Operations received the John T. Ryan National Safety Trophy as the safest coal mine in Canada for 2016 / Teck was named to the 2017 Best 50 Corporate Citizens in Canada for the fifth consecutive year.

Amy added that for the BC Provincial Mine Rescue competition, Greenhills won the Overall Surface Mine Rescue competition with Elkview coming in second. Coal Mountain won the three-person task. The Cardinal River Operations team won the Overall Aggregate for the AB Provincials.

Gordon asked Amy if she could confirm the rumour that the extension at Fording River Operations will include the acquisition of 60 wiggle wagons. She said she wasn't sure but she will find out.

COIAI Advertising Plan meeting – Simon told the group that he and Sharon came up with a plan that Sharon presented to Claris to help create awareness of the Advisory Initiative. Claris has agreed to help with this and is drafting a proposal.

Community Safety Support – On behalf of Sharon, Simon mentioned that she was approached by Don Crawford, a retired resident of Sparwood with a strong safety background, offering to assist the Advisory Initiative in any way needed. He does not want a seat on the committee. Simon asked Scott if an extra resource would be useful and he agreed that it would.

July Partners Meeting – everyone agreed to let their names stand for the 2017/2018 Steering Committee. Lois will check with the local Elk Valley governments to ensure they still want her to represent them all.

Round Table

Gordon – felt the statements from Janice and Kerri regarding poverty hit home. His wife gets OAP/OAS and her Fording River pension but he believes there are some who have fallen through the cracks and are being charged more than they bring in. Kerri confirmed that hidden poverty is an issue and she hopes she can work with the Task Force to devise a Poverty Reduction Strategy.

Andrew – still feels it will be helpful if a list can be created for the schools that will outline what students can do to help themselves prepare for work at Teck after graduation.

Kerri – distributed rack cards from the United Way outlining a new service called 211. The service connects users to vital community and social resources that are close to home and suit their needs.

Lois – had the privilege of attending The Federation of Canadian Municipalities conference in Ottawa where she found there to be a strong French presence. She found communication to be possible despite the language barrier. It was very special to be there during Canada's 150th birthday celebration. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau gave a great speech. Lois added that municipal elections will be taking place in November 2018.

Scott – had nothing to add.

Janice – there was collaboration between Interior Health and CBT to acquire \$40,000 to purchase safe sleeping beds for all infants to reduce the mortality rate of SIDS (more detailed discussion around the 'baby boxes' can be found in the September 27, 2016 meeting minutes).

Amy – noted appreciation for the Health Care Aids and was pleased about the quick cycle from education to employment. She was unaware of the Community Paramedics program and 211 so gained a lot from the meeting.

Anita – expressed appreciation for Sharon and all that she does for the SC after having to take minutes today.

Simon – thought the childcare resource pamphlet was great and he thanked all involved in its development.

Closing Remarks

Simon thanked everyone for their active participation and the sharing of information.

Next Meetings:

Partners – July 12, 2017
Steering Committee – September 2017

Action Items

Action Items	Who	Deadline
OLD		
None		
NEW		
Find out how long resumes are kept on file at Teck	AM	By next meeting
Find out if FRO extension project will include 60 wiggle wagons	AM	By next meeting
Advise Don Crawford that Scott appreciates offer of support	SS	By next meeting
Identify who on committee will speak with school councillors regarding students interested in working for Teck	All	At next meeting

Attendance

Name	Representing	Role	
Craig, Andrew	Youth		
Galloway, Gordon	Motorized Recreation/Elkford		
Halko, Lois	Municipal Government/Sparwood		
Howse, Simon	Business & CHBA / Fernie	Chair	
Mac Con, Amy	Teck/ Human Resources		
Palmer, Anita	Education/RDEKA	Vice Chair	
Robinson, Scott	Community Safety/Fernie		
Talarico, Janice	Healthcare/Sparwood		
Wall, Kerri	Healthcare		

Unable to attend:

	Representing	Role	
Anonson, Terry	Metis Nation/Elkford		
Bauer, Kim	Social Services/Elkford		
Drain, Joanne	Seniors/Crowsnest Pass		
Steinke, Lance	CNP		
Strom, Sharon	Teck / Communities	Secretary	
Walker, Lee-Anne	ENGOS/Fernie		
Wedderburn, Shelley	Michel Crk Rd Residents/Sparwood		