

Minutes of the Acadia Road Combined Daycare Communicare Society

Oct 18, 2007, in the Administration Building

In Attendance (in bold; absent members are not in bold):

Infant Center		3-5 Centers	
Little Goslings:	Lisa Sundstrom (VP Advocacy) Critsina Conati	Acadia:	Katherine Todd Millar (VP Advocacy)
Toddler Centers		Little Raven:	Ben Pfeiffer (Advocacy Webmaster) Maria Ezhova
Sitka:	Nicole Collard	Pacific Spirit/ S7UMUX Kindergarten	Reuben Ford
Huckleberry:	Kelli Kadokawa (Fundraising)	Tillicum:	Paul Pavlidis (Webmaster) Megan Riter
Canada Goose:	Greg Feldman	Lluvia:	Jessica Irwin (Co-Secretary, Treasurer)
Discovery:		Barish:	Jessica Irwin (Co-Secretary, Treasurer) Brit Lampe (Fundraising) Mara Elwood
Lilliput:	Julie Bettinger (Co-Secretary) Jim Salzman	Summer of '73:	Julie Stitt (President) Kristin Loheyde (VP Advocacy)
Chuva:		Kids Club:	Annie Moradain
Staff		Other	
Director	Darcelle Cotton Bev Christian	AMS	Brandon Goodmurphy

Visitors:

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

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1. Review of the Minutes

Minutes: The minutes from the **Sept 20, 2007** meeting have been approved.

2. Introductions

See attendance of board members in bold on first page.

3. Administrators Report (Darcelle)

Update from Oct 17 Community Consultation Regarding Construction: There is asbestos present in the building materials of the apartments that will be torn down to create the new daycare centers, both in the drywall of the interiors and the stucco of the exterior. Darcelle distributed a copy of the report by PHH ARC Environmental, the consultants that are working on the asbestos removal project. There is also a department of the university that oversees the work, making sure it is up to standards. Julie S: They are taking this very seriously and doing more than would be done at most sites. The outside will be under tarps with negative air pressure, the material taken down and put in bins to be removed. Lisa: There are multiple barriers of protection, so it is unlikely all will fail. Darcelle: They were on site when the children were here on the playground, so that helped them. Once torn down, it will take 40 days to remove the material, whereas usually it takes only a few days. One of the questions from the parents was “What is the risk at this distance?” The consultants say it is almost nothing. The highest risk is for the men doing the work. The workmen themselves are in the most danger and will be taking every precaution to make sure that it is safe. Licensing says that as long as they are meeting WCB standards, it is fine, and UBC standards are even higher.

The construction of the new daycares: The new centers will be directly across the street from Sitka and Huckleberry at the turnaround. Have applied for a mixed age grouping. They have agreed in principle, provided that we meet lots of requirements. Licensing is happy that we are making the space big enough to move in other directions later. Their staff convinced them that UBC is the best choice for piloting this age grouping, and the government is under pressure to provide more flexibility— it is better for children in that there is only one transition (age range is 1-5 years possibly). There will be more staff than exists in current centers. It would be staffed on the Reggio-Amilio model: 3 staff to meet current requirements plus 2 or more for specialty programming. How would we enroll? Currently looking at the following as an example (if open in Sept 2008):

Born in 2007—4 children (age 1)

Born in 2006—4 children (age 2)

Born in 2005—8 children (age 3)

Born in 2004—8 children (age 4)

So there would be times when the children will be in smaller age groupings, and other times when all the children would be together. Behavioral issues like biting that happen in toddler centers occur because they are all the same age and stage, but with mixed ages these issues are much more rare. Will have 4 daycares doing this at the same time. One of the staff will be doing her PhD on it, and she teaches early childhood education. May need to fill off a different waitlist, but will see. There will be 96 full time spaces with this age grouping, and another fifth daycare that will be like the current centers. Do not yet know if the lower age limit will be 12 months or 18 months.

Will be asking council for a letter of support to the province— we’re applying for capital funds that have recently been released, so need a letter of support from council soon.

Kelli: I want to make sure that we address the fundraising idea of donor tiles early enough in the process before the design plan is finalized.

Kindergarten: Our kindergarten has just finished their inspection (observation, financial, check curriculum, etc.). Everything was fine, in fact, they were raving about it.

Kristin: Can you give an example of the things licensing is looking for in their requirements? Darcelle: The research, a description of the age of the children, the evaluation process, developmental levels—it's comprehensive, and have the help of four child care staff working on answering. They also want to know the relationship between the four centers—if we have a problem, then can more easily discover the source of the problems and find solutions. We're asking all the staff to be involved in the learning process, and the staff at all the centers are excited about this.

Kristin: Wondering if there is a photo journal/ diary of how this process is happening that we can later put together for a brochure or fundraising, including the construction part of it. Darcelle: That's a good idea. Perhaps a student can take it on. Kristin: Perhaps not a council thing, but we should make sure that someone is charged with the responsibility of putting something together. Megan: Other centers have that for their history, and the staff are so excited about this project, there will be lots of photos taken.

Kids club: Not in the new building yet. Hopefully by the end of next week. Update next month.

4. Parent Info Update (Maria)

The date is set for Thursday, Oct 25, 2007, from 7-9 pm in the administration building. The Vancouver School Board spokesperson we having coming is Sylvia Helmer – the manager of the VSB District Reception and Placement Centre. We have 8 representatives from schools— a mix of private, public, and late-French immersion. Most public schools locally are all full, and parents don't have choices, so they are not sending representatives. There are few cross-boundary applications being accepted. Should we have the reps from schools here next year and just have a representative from the District? Julie S: Lets have a comment box at the event and perhaps ask that question. Perhaps only the rep from the school board is enough. Reuben: We've got more public schools coming this year than last year. There are some special programs that the public schools are advertising, and some parents are unsure about public vs independent. Maria: We have put together a handout that lists all of the daycare opportunities within 1 km of a kindergarten. We need to have copies to handout to parents on Thursday, and will put a copy on the website for parents unable to attend.

Julie S proposes a motion to reimburse Maria for up to \$60 for refreshments for the event. Seconded, and unanimously approved.

Action Items: 1) Maria to buy juice and coffee. 2) Maria, Rueben, Jessica, Bev, Roland will help set up, and do meeting and greeting, and Julie S to help take down. 3) Darcelle will make copies of childcare handout and Paul will post on website.

5. Update on Stong's and Safeway dollars (Kelli)

Kelli: We do not have all of the checks yet, but the current totals say we will be close if not over our targets for maximum profit margin. Julie S: Please send council an update next week. Kelli: Tomorrow we will start the deposit process. Julie S: It was nice to have a targeted interested, and I had lots of questions from parents—many were unaware of the gym. Currently the centers bring their own things over in carts.

Julie S proposed a motion to write checks payable to Stongs and Safeway for the amounts of the final totals, after all deposits have been made. Seconded, and unanimously approved.

Action Items: 1) Kelli will send council an update on final totals. 2) Kelli and Brit will deposit checks at VanCity. 3) Checks will be written to Stongs and Safeway for the final total amounts.
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6. Fundraising Ideas (Kelli)

Kelli presented her research on the label fundraising idea, passing around a spreadsheet comparing relevant info for three companies: Mabel's Labels, Lovable Labels and Stuck on You. She also passed around sample labels from Stuck on You (the company she used before learning of the others). All three companies are basically the same. The profit is 15-20%. Each offers two types of fundraising styles. The first is paperless, that directs parents to a special customized website for us. The disadvantage of this is that parents often procrastinate. Council would set a target range, and then still get a fundraising profit with straggle orders later. The second kind is with paper, in which we collect order forms and money. Lovable Labels gets checks directly to them, Mabel's Labels and Stuck on You don't do that—council would pay them less our profit. All the companies provide lots of customized advertising.

Discussion ensues. Stuck on You happens to offer the most icons in every label category, but it is the Australian company. Environmentally, it is better to use a local company. The wait time is the same for all companies. How much would most parents spend? Most council members are ready to buy now, so judge that interest would be high among parents. Should we use more than one company to get as much icon choice as possible if they all have about the same profit margin?

Kristin: Motion to initiate a paperless fundraiser through Mabel's and Lovable Labels. Seconded, and unanimously approved.

Action Items: 1) Kelli will set it up in the next few days, and they will send a packet out to us.
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7. Overview of UBC Fundraising Process (Kristin)

Table to next meeting.

8. Portable Gym Equipment Information (Bev)

Table to next meeting.

9. Swap Meet Idea (Everyone)

Julie S: Several years ago there was a swap meet organized by the council. Gently used items were donated, then members of council sorted and priced items. Several parents have asked if we are doing it again. It was not a good fundraiser and a lot of work for council, but it was a good community event. In order to do this again, we should have at least two people who are passionate about doing it.

Julie B: when mentioned at the last parent meeting at Lilliput, her parents were not interested in donating stuff—they would rather make their own profit.

Kristin: What happens with what is left? Julie S.: Donate it to charity or have centers take what they need.

Kristin: perhaps if we sell a table for \$10 each, and allow the families make their own profit. The remains could be donated to the centers or the charities.

Julie S: If we allow families to rent a table and the fee goes to fundraising, there is much less work for council—we would advertise the swap meet and up to parents to price and sell. If we agree, we should do it in the spring. Let's bring the idea to parents and make sure that have enough parent interest before going forward. There should be a minimum number of tables reserved in order to make it worthwhile.

Action Items: 1) Reps talk to parents to gauge interest and will discuss at November meeting.

10. Advocacy Update (Lisa, Kristin and Julie)

Meeting with candidates: Following up on the idea from Joyce Murray about her request to meet with parents. At the last meeting we discussed that we should only do this if we have all possible candidates have the same opportunity. In interim discussions between Julie S, Kristin, and Lisa, they settled on the possibility of a joint meeting with all candidates but that is not a debate. Separate meetings would perhaps not be a good idea since turnout would be a problem. After contacting Joyce with the idea, she responded that she is not interested in a joint meeting since it would ultimately end up as a debate. She wants to talk with parents, not the other candidates. Kristin: Another idea for the future is to have a moderator with the three candidates—so more like having the parents do most of the talking. Lisa: Perhaps we could later consider staging an all-candidates meeting at a central campus location during the actual by-election campaign.

Discussion ensues. Julie S: I don't feel there is a concern with her coming to a council meeting. She could come to the first 30 minutes and open it up for all parents. We would invite the other candidates to do the same. Lisa: Joyce has to limit the number of all candidate things she attends, and since the election is not going to be called soon, we no longer have the time sensitivity. Kristin: I like the idea of having it be at the beginning of a council meeting. Rueben: Could she formulate some questions for our parents? Then parents who are unable to show up can still participate.

Motion to invite Joyce Murray and all interested parents to the first 30 minutes of our November council meeting, and request that she provide a list of questions about childcare issues for our parents to answer. Other candidates will receive a similar invitation to future meetings, and parents can send questions to council to ask Joyce Murray if unable to attend.

Action Items: 1) Lisa will write a memo to parents about the even and will invite Joyce Murray and other candidates to the first 30 minutes of council meetings.

Response to "Focus on People":

Julie S: A few years ago, UBC crafted a "People Plan" and that consultation process finished 18 months ago. There was a lot of concern about that draft, and it has morphed into a new document called "Focus on People: Workplace Practices at UBC", and is a framework for human resources. It is currently being circulated and is open for comments. The childcare advocacy work that Darcelle and the Parent Council did over the past few years has had a huge impact on the current draft.

Julie S read several excerpts that specifically mention childcare. In general, the first strategy develops a healthy workplace, the second works to retain faculty and staff, and the fourth is to attract staff, which includes the current childcare expansion and promises to begin the next phase of expansion very soon.

Julie S requests that council craft a response to this report by the end of October. The consultation period is through October 31. There is a short feedback form with open comments that should be passed on to parents. We need to emphasize the importance of childcare in this document. In earlier drafts, childcare was not mentioned. Kudos to everyone at UBC who spoke up to their supervisors about this issue.

The website: <http://www.hr.ubc.ca/peopleplan/>

The pdf of the document: http://www.hr.ubc.ca/files/pdf/people_plan/Focus_on_People.pdf

The feedback form: <http://www.hr.ubc.ca/peopleplan/feedback.html>

Kristin proposes a motion that she, Lisa, and Julie S will craft a response from council to the "Focus on People" framework by October 31, 2007. Seconded, and unanimously approved.

Action Items: 1) Reps ask their parents to review the document, send in comment forms, and emphasize the importance of childcare on their response forms. 2) Kristin, Lisa and Julie S will craft a response from council to the "Focus on People" framework by October 31, 2007.

11. Miscellaneous

Traffic: Julie B has a parent that has volunteered to become the traffic safety chair.

Accounting: Julie proposes a motion to write checks for \$150 and \$25 to pay our membership dues to "Coalition of Child Care" and "BC Society Act Report". Seconded, and unanimously approved.

Concert with Chris: Maria has been in contact with Chris Roskelly. This year Chris would like to do a fundraising concert in honor of the children of the parents who have one parent as staff at UBC Childcare and the other parent involved in the long strike. She has booked the Acadia Common's Block for Saturday, November 24 at 10:30 am. Staff will advertise, but there is a call for volunteers to help at the event. Mara Elwood is organizing the bake sale. At the event, volunteers are needed to help set up, sell juice, make helium balloons, and sell tickets.

Distribution of Safeway/Stongs cards: Kelli needs more volunteers for specific timeslots on Nov 1 and 2. She will send an email to council if she can't get the shifts covered.

Action Items: 1) Julie B will contact new traffic safety chair. 2) Jessica and Darcelle will write necessary checks for membership dues. 3) Reps need to ask parents to help bake or volunteer for Chris's concert--respond to daycarecouncil@gmail.com if interested.
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12. Set next meeting

Our next meeting has been scheduled for **Tuesday, November 20, 2007 at 7:00 pm** at the Main Office.