

North Vancouver Community Associations Network (NVCAN)

MINUTES from Special Meeting

Date: Wednesday, February 21, 2018

Location: District Hall, 355 Queens St W

Time: 7:00 – 9:00 pm

Present:

John Miller (Chair)	Lower Capilano
Eric G. Andersen	Blueridge
Sharlene Hertz	Delbrook
Corrie Kost	Edgemont
Eric Skowronek	Edgemont
Margaret Fraser	Lynn Valley (Workshop Presenter)
Irene Davidson	Norgate Park
Karen Barnett	Seymour
Babs Perowne	Woodcroft
Val Moller	Woodcroft

Regrets:

Diana Belhouse	Delbrook
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Guests:

Students from UBC representing Italy, Costa Rica, Ecuador and Edgemont Village

- 1. Welcome:** John M. welcomed everyone to the meeting at 7p.m.
- 2. Approval of Agenda.** The agenda was approved without change.
- 3. Approve Minutes.** Minutes of January 18, 2018 were approved.
- 4. Workshop – Developing Community Associations -** Margaret Fraser led the workshop discussions on the following topics:
 - **What brings us together** CAs suggested that political issues, redevelopment, social events, garbage collection, traffic congestion are what originally drew people to their CAs. But CAs are more than just political and social activities, or neighbourhood campaigns on topics of concern. Some suggestions: Consider a career fair to match local businesses and potential employees. Provide service for members: local park weed pull, litter pickup parties, Xmas tree chipping, All-candidates meetings at election time. Services for residents: eg. Furnace cleaning for residents of the CA at a discount, Cool North Shore Program. Positive action: contact politicians or District staff concerning a local issue; speaking at DNV Council meetings.
 - **How do we promote group.** CAs need multiple approaches to attract residents. It is important to understand the others' viewpoints - Remember that while 'old hands' may bemoan some conditions (eg. housing cost, traffic), to a newcomer

what we have may be better than where they lived before. Use email, newsletters, social media, circulate notices door-to-door or in building lobbies or at local stores. Work with nearby CA to hold joint events. Exchange contact info (eg. if one CA has access to event tents, work out an exchange). Provide a CA 'information' table at large events, eg. Canada Day.

- **How do we organize:** Margaret reviewed the various ways a Community Association could be structured, frequency of meetings, official positions, and annual meetings. Roundtable discussion confirmed that each CA had its own structure based on local community needs, size and type of neighbourhood.
 - **Volunteers:** We rely on volunteers to organize. However, volunteer fatigue can become an issue if the same people are called upon for each gathering. Involve schools –high school students get credit for volunteer work (community service), contact College/University organizations for volunteers. Advertise (eg. North Shore News, Facebook) for volunteers – be specific as to the role and time expectation. Volunteers may participate to organize one event, or handle social media updates or sit on the board.
 - **Special events:** To encourage more participation by all residents. Feature cultural events, and put on Block Parties. Consider partnering with schools for seasonal activities (eg. pumpkin festival, zucchini festival). Encourage youth participation by featuring local bands at evening events, Dance Parties.
 - **Funding:** Grants are available from the North Vancouver Recreation Commission and the District Community Building Fund. Arrange partnerships with local businesses to sponsor an event or provide in-kind donation, eg Tim Hortons, Starbucks. Consider potluck contributions. Contact service groups (Lions, Rotary, Legion) for advertising/support. Some businesses or local condominiums can provide meeting rooms.
 - **Sharing member names:** A brief discussion raised the issue of obtaining members consent before sharing their contact information, even within the group. General purpose emails (eg info@ or president@) are useful to protect privacy of individual and also allow flexibility when people holding a role change.
5. **Next Meeting: General Meeting.** Date: Wednesday, March 21.
6. **Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 9 p.m.