

Carman Wellness Connections – Addressing Poverty Annual General Meeting

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Approved Minutes of Thursday, June 17, 2021 6:30 – 7:30 pm - ZOOM Meeting

COMMON VISION: Together, creating a community where everyone has the opportunity and supports to flourish where they live, learn, work and play.

COMMON VALUES: Common values will guide our behavior, inspire our actions, and encourage conversation within every component of this community initiative.

Empowerment

Sustainability

Accessibility

Best Practice

Respect

Shared Responsibility

“Nothing about us, without us”

“It takes a village”

Present: Karen Tjaden (Co-chair), Lisa Lehmann (Co-chair) Lorna George (Treasurer), Debbie Iverson (Secretary), Susan Weppler, Wendy Durand, Allison Abbott-Wiebe, Beth Bartley, Terra Huston, Wendy Durand Diane Unruh, Alvin Iverson, Monica Halbesma, Colin Hay, Jennifer Ching-Faux, Karen McGill, Susan Mooney, Audy Dewitt, Regrets: Rachel Siemens, Brent Owen, Candice Derksen, Louise Duncan, Shannon Vaughan, Terry Warburton, Amy Johnson, Nancy Clearwater, Darcy Redekopp, Sandy Scott, Alita Montgomery

Meeting called to order at 6:31 pm

1. Welcome:

- Land Acknowledgment: We acknowledge with respect the history, spirituality and culture of the Anishinaabe, Cree, Ojibway, Dakota and Dene Peoples with whom Treaty One was signed and the territory where we reside. We also honour the heritage and gifts of the Metis people. Under the terms of Treaty One, we now share the responsibility of caring for the earth, sky and water where we pledge to create a sacred space of welcome where all might find a home.
- Moment of Focus – Reflection by Terra Huston. Not everyone is able to have a steady job or income. EIA monthly allowance may cover rent and utilities, and basic need but does not leave much for anything else, making it challenging for individuals and families to participate in other activities. Especially for those living with disabilities.

2. Approval of Agenda:

One addition: Working Group Reports 4.6 Community Resource List

Motion: To approve agenda with addition

Moved/Seconded by: Monica Halbesma/Terra Huston

CARRIED

3. Introduction of Current Board members – Karen Tjaden

- All current Board members were introduced.
- Appreciation expressed for Board member participation and contributions over the past year even as we worked through many changes with covid restrictions.

4. Working Group Reports: **Each Working group shared highlights from past year with full working group reports noted in the CWC Annual Community Action Plan report as circulated.**

4.1 Supporting Emotional Health – Audi Dewitt

- Appreciation for the Parenting Courses facilitated by Terri Warburton. Valuable information for anyone caring for children. Course provided insight into our kids behavior and emotions, getting to the heart of what is going on with our children.
- Also appreciated the Writing on the Wall workshop with Heidi Hunter, brought out individuals' creativity.
- Looking forward to more of these types of workshops being offered in the future.
- Courses were offered via ZOOM due to covid restrictions, hopefully will be able to resume in person workshops in the coming year.

4.2 Food Security – Terra Huston

- Community vegetable stand very successful. Community residents had opportunity to be both donators and users of fresh garden produce during the summer months. Healthy Living Grant funding was used to build the vegetable stand. See Annual report for details and feedback comments. Vegetable stand was highlighted on CBC news.
- Small container gardens – 10 kits distributed to community residents. Also distributed seeds to others.
- Looked after the raised garden beds at the schools during the school closures due to covid.
- Farmers Market – Food currency program – provided vouchers to families to use at the Farmers Market.

4.3 Affordable Housing – Lorna George

- Working group has been organized as a result of a community conversation.
- Exploring affordable housing options, looking at what Winkler MB. is doing with some of the Manitoba Housing Units.
- Working Group just getting organized. Looking at options for purchase of a MB housing unit in Carman.
- Extended invitation for anyone with interest in this area to join this working group.

4.4 Education & Employment – Allison Abbott-Wiebe

- Have developed an action plan and looking forward to progressing in the coming year.
- Appreciate the working group identification of the education and employment needs for adults in our community.
- Looking at providing assistance, resources and support for those seeking employment, with increasing awareness of what resources and supports currently exist.
- Planning on offering a resume writing workshop.
- Long term goal – identified need for a community central location for individuals to access information and resources.

4.5 Affordable Recreation and Leisure – Susan Weppler

- Funded two 1- hour pool rentals for some families with a grant through the Carman Area Foundation. One 5 year old who attended, expressed that this was her first time going to the pool.
- Working with Carman Dufferin Recreation Department to promote low cost/free or possible subsidized recreational activities in the community.
- Invitation extended for others to join this working group.

4.6 Community Resource List – Debbie Iverson

- Explored options for a centralized, sustainable community resource list. Connected with 211 Manitoba as a viable option to start with online as well as a phone contact. 211 Manitoba provided printed resources to be used for community promotion. Continuing to identify and encourage local organizations who provide social service supports to enter their information on the 211 Manitoba website.

- Appreciate the number of individuals who have become involved on the Board and Working Groups, and how much we have accomplished over the past year because of working together with shared responsibility.

5. Make Poverty History – Lorna George

Carman Wellness Connections is a member of Make Poverty History. Make Poverty History is a coalition of organizations and individuals which exists to advocate for policy development at a provincial and federal level. Encourage everyone to check out the Make Poverty History Website and lend a voice in some of their advocacy work around a basic livable income, increase to EIA benefits, etc. (Website listed in the CWC Annual Community Action Plan report.)

6. Financial Report – Presented by Lorna George as circulated.

Noted that a formal audit was not required for 2020.

Have submitted application for charitable status to CRA, awaiting response.

Motion: To accept the 2020 annual financial report as presented

Moved/Seconded by: Colin Hay/ Beth Bartley

CARRIED

7. Amendment of Bylaws:

1.1 Current Bylaw 5.3 reads: “The Board shall consist of no less than 3 to a maximum of 10 Directors.

The composition of the Board shall be inclusive of a minimum of 3 individuals with lived experience of poverty, reflective of CWC’s values.”

PROPOSED AMENDED BYLAW 5.3 shall read:

“The Board shall consist of no less than 9 to a maximum of 15 Directors. The composition of the Board shall be inclusive of a minimum of 3 individuals with lived experience of poverty, reflective of CWC’s values.

Motion: To approve the Proposed Amended Bylaw 5:3 as stated.

Moved/Seconded by: Lisa Lehmann/Lorna George

CARRIED

8. Nominations to the Board

- Presentation of the list of Board nominations: The following names have been confirmed for nomination as Board members for a 2 year term beginning June 2021, unless indicated as a 1 year term.

- Cecile Affleck
- Colin Hay
- Rachel Siemens (1 year)
- Nancy Clearwater
- Darcy Redekopp
- Susan Wepler
- Lorna George
- Wendy Durand
- Terra Huston
- Allison Abbott-Wiebe
- Beth Bartley
- Debbie Iverson
- Amy Johnson
- Lisa Lehmann
- Karen Tjaden

Motion: To accept confirmed nominations as presented.

Moved/Seconded by: Lorna George/Colin Hay

CARRIED

- Still to be confirmed (Current Board Members who have yet to confirm whether they want to serve as Board members or Ex-Officio, or focus on Working Group activity):
 - Bruce Wood
 - Janet Fowler
 - Carol Brown
 - Sheena Nakonechny

- Ex-Officio:
 - Chantal Chevalier
 - Tyler Atchison
 - Louise Duncan
 - Jane Swanton
 - Nancy McFarlane
 - Kathy Findlay

9. Comments from the Co-chairs:

- Appreciation to all Board and Working Group members for their participation and contributions.
- Always important for Carman Wellness Connections to be about addressing poverty for overall health and well being of all our community residents.
- Appreciation to the Co-chairs for their leadership.
- As we listen and learn much from each other, together we are stronger and accomplish more.
- How have we lived out our common values as evidenced in our reports and conversation at our meeting tonight? – Sustainability, Empowerment, It takes a Village, Shared responsibility.

10. Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn at 7:30 pm

Moved by: Lorna George.

CARRIED.