

ADVOCACY GROUP MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, December 21, 2020

10:30 – 12:00am

Videoconference

Attended		Regrets
Lucy Gowers, Chair Kathy Manners, Coordinator	Julie McAlpine, Recorder James Thomson	Suzanna McCarthy Lesley Watts

Item	Minutes	Action	
1.	<p>Approval of Minutes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> November 16, 2020 	There were no changes noted to the minutes of November 16 th 2020.	
2.	<p>Digital Access</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Letter Campaign 	<p>Julie reported the cost for Fireside to add a “call to action” letter to the Coalition website is between \$1200-1500 and that this template could be adapted for other purposes. There was some concern that Fireside would use a member drop-down list that members would use to select their organization’s name to send a letter and that this raises some security concerns.</p> <p>Discussion took place around alternative ways to make the template more secure i.e. include a field the member agency would have to fill in.</p> <p>Lucy will provide the Executive Committee with an update but we are not ready to request the funds for the template until we get more information related to the letter being sent securely.</p>	<p>Julie will followup with Fireside and Lucy will check with her contact.</p> <p>Lucy will provide an update to Executive.</p>
3.	<p>Connection to Community</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Response from Council Linkage to Community Safety Plans 	<p>Connection to Community</p> <p><u>Response from Council</u></p> <p>A good response from Council was noted. Next steps are to figure out an approach how to facilitate the ongoing conversation, engage organizations and tie into the working groups.</p> <p>It was discussed inviting Coalition members to participate on a subcommittee to work on a planning strategy. We will start with a survey to be sent out to Coalition members in the New Year with the results discussed at the January</p>	

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	<p>Council meeting and shared with Jill Dunlop. This could tie in with the presentation on Community Safety plans if approved as the Hot Topic by Executive.</p> <p>James shared some questions related to development assets that could be adapted to our needs.</p> <p>Discussed feeling connected to neighbourhood/community is also a part of connection to community; it is not just related to service provision.</p> <p>A discussion took place around doing an environmental scan what organizations are currently doing to support connection to community. Spoke about how the library offers a welcoming space and how the Coalition could advocate/support throughout the broader community. We could look to see where welcoming spaces are and if some communities are better than others which could help determine what additional supports are needed (good piece for strategic planning). If the Coalition had vital signs, it could provide a sense of strategic investment to know what projects to work on. Need more robust conversation and answers from the survey before we ask how we can support better connection.</p> <p>The preamble to the survey can be taken with the first paragraph of the position paper, "As Coalition members...individual and community health".</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How does your organization define connection to community? 2. What approaches is your organization currently using to support connection to community? 3. How do you collect/use data, feedback or other information to know you are making people more connected to community? 4. Are you committing budget dollars to this, and if not what would you need to help move this forward? 5. Are you interested in joining a working group to explore this work further? <p>The questions will be sent to the Advocacy Group for final approval and then the survey will be sent out to Council members the first week of January with a deadline of January 15th for time to review before the meeting with Jill Dunlop and an update will be provided at the January Council meeting.</p> <p><u>Linkage to Community Safety Plans</u> A suggestion to have the Community Wellness and Safety Plans as the January Hot Topic at Council is going to Executive today. Will have more information to share once we get the themes.</p>	<p>Kathy to prepare survey questions and send to Advocacy for approval. Send survey out to Council Jan. 4th with results due Jan. 15th.</p> <p>Lucy will bring the plan forward to Executive today.</p>

