



Southeast Vancouver Seniors' Arts & Cultural Society

6260 Killarney Street, Vancouver, BC V5S 2X7

Report to Killarney Community Centre Society Annual General Meeting – June 23, 2015

We are happy to report that our Society's regular activities have continued and morale is high. Our program of lunches, movies and workshops brings social opportunities and information to isolated seniors from many parts of the Victoria-Fraserview-Champlain and Killarney community.

Our Members and Directors also come from this huge community where they volunteer and assist in many outside organizations. From diverse ethnic backgrounds, they work with all age groups including but not limited to school-age literacy tutoring, coaching aspiring athletes, integrating newcomers, preparing community meals and bringing comfort to shut-in seniors. The community contributions made by retired people are awesome. Without their generosity, many organizations and services would falter and disappear.

SVSACS (pronounced SAVESACS) Members and Directors have been recognized for their service. Although space does not permit mention of all our stars, we are especially proud of Mr. Abdul Shaikh who was recently inducted into the 2015 Canada Games Hall of Fame for his lifetime contribution to racquet sports. A very fit senior, Abdul is Coach for Team BC and also teaches in Vancouver Community Centres.

Through 2014 and into this New Year, SVSACS and Killarney Seniors Association continued to promote and plan for the seniors' centre which will, one day, be built as an annex to Killarney Community Centre.

For our seniors and other stakeholders, it has been a rollercoaster year of ups and downs as additional City funding, which had seemed secure, disappeared. There were also long periods of frustrating silence while we awaited information regarding the building design, its timeline, or any tangible sign of progress.

We started this season believing we had far exceeded the funding goal of \$7.5 million, as Mayor Gregor Robertson pledged an additional \$1.2 million to the project and that this would be a "contingency" against the unexpected. However, others decided that the additional 1.2 million was unnecessary and that extra funding was rescinded. It is unusual to cut funding before real costs have been established and everyone is anxious to see whether the project really can be completed with funding cut back to 7.5 million.

Planning for Construction:

In November of 2014, several stakeholder groups were invited to attend four workshops to meet with the Bridging Consultant (Glen Stokes, Bruce Carscadden Architects) and provide their opinions on what seniors might want to see in their new centre.

February 12th, 2015: A meeting was convened for the Killarney Building Team¹ to meet with representatives from City of Vancouver (COV), Vancouver Parks Department (VPD) and Bruce Carscadden Architects (BCA)² to view Concept Drawings and consider initial budget figures. Various options on food service were advanced including fully catered off-site food services. The seniors groups rejected this option in favour of fresh on-site food preparation; this choice also proved to be the most cost-effective option. But there was a problem; we were informed that it was contrary to VPD practice to have two kitchens in one community complex.

So, as SVSACS has been lobbying for a dedicated, commercial kitchen for the seniors' centre for many years, we were surprised to learn, at this late date, that a kitchen could not be built into the Seniors Centre because there was an existing kitchen in Killarney Community Centre. After lengthy discussions, the Building Team agreed to de-commission the kitchen in Killarney Community Centre and replace it with a galley-style servery.

The team was also disappointed to learn that a road access to the seniors centre, a separate entrance, and an elevator for the seniors' centre would not be possible. Road access has been denied, at this time, due to expense and permitting requirements and new "Energy" regulations made installation of a second elevator unlikely if not impossible.

In due course, corrections were made to budget numbers and the most cost-effective option chosen. Concept drawings were revised to show the seniors' centre with a fully-equipped commercial kitchen and dining room on the ground floor. It was agreed this was the most practical and cost-effective option and reduced the need for a separate elevator as long as the existing elevator underwent the significant upgrades recommended by City Architect, Sandra Korpan.

April 30th, 2015: City of Vancouver Architect, Ms. Sandra Korpan, convened a meeting for the Killarney Community Association Building Team to meet with representatives from City of Vancouver, Vancouver Parks Department, and Bruce Carscadden Architects. Revised drawings were distributed and well received. Ms. Korpan informed us that Expressions of

¹ Ainslie Kwan, Keith Jacobson, Art Lum, Alfred Tse, George Grant, Lorna Gibbs

² Sandra Korpan, Shauna Wilton, and Gordon Barber from COV, Thomas Souliere, Terry Walton, Debbie Barber, Vancouver Parks Dept., Glen Stokes, Nazlee Moayed, Bruce Carscadden Architects.

Interest were received from six contractors. Three firms have been shortlisted and it is expected a Request for Quotation will be sent to qualified bidders by the end of June 2015. We have requested the KCC Building Team receive copies before it is sent out.

It is unfortunate that Minutes of all these Meetings have not been provided to participants! SVSACS would like to tape proceedings of these meetings, as we did for the first meeting. This proved to be a great advantage to us and we will request permission to continue to tape proceedings. Complex material is covered in each meeting and most people need good records because memory can be faulty.

Although SVSACS is pleased that progress has been made in the last six months, we still consider it to be painfully slow. Information has sometimes been presented piecemeal with opportunities for follow-up questions non-existent except at formal meetings which have been few and far between.

Nevertheless, seniors are hopeful that once Joint Operating Agreement negotiations have been concluded the process will gain momentum and open communication and information sharing will follow..

The next big step will be finalization of specifications for the Request for Quotation and then awarding a contract to the successful a Contractor. We hope this will happen within days. Most of all, we hope to see the Public Ground-Breaking Event!

In closing, SVSACS thanks all those who have so generously supported us for so many years. Please stay with us to celebrate a successful conclusion of this long-awaited Seniors' Centre.

Yours truly,

Southeast Vancouver Seniors
Arts & Cultural Centre Society



Lorna Gibbs
President

