



Abbotsford Reaching Home Community Advisory Board Meeting

Tuesday, February 25, 2025 at 1:30 pm
In person: Abbotsford City Hall, Room 226
32315 South Fraser Way, Abbotsford

MINUTES

Voting Members Present: M. Brown, C. Derkson, C. Gauthier, D. Halber, L. Levy, M. Loewen, E. Skates, E. Van Egmond, J. Wegenast

Regrets: D. Murphy, M. Jassal, C. Silver, P. Wells, M. Sikora

Non-voting Members Present: A. Koslowsky, G. McMahon, K. Munne (virtual)

1. Call to Order

- a. The meeting was called to order at 1:32 pm
- b. Land acknowledgement
- c. Introductions

2. Adoption of Minutes of the Abbotsford Community Advisory Board Committee September 12, 2024 meeting

Discussion – none

MOTION: That the Community Advisory Board adopt the September 12, 2024, CAB meeting minutes as presented.

Moved by J. Wegenast, seconded by M. Loewen.

CARRIED

3. Adoption of the Agenda

Discussion – J. Wegenast asked that the adoption of the agenda be added to the meeting agenda as point 3.

MOTION: That the Adoption of the Agenda be added to the agenda and the Community Advisory Board adopt the February 25, 2025, meeting agenda as presented in meeting package.

Moved by C. Gauthier, seconded by M. Loewen

CARRIED

4. CE update

Graham M.

- a. CAB membership updates
 - Welcome Emmy Skates, new CEO at SARA for Women
 - Matsqui First Nation – invitation has been extended to have representation from the Nation on the CAB. A response has not been received. Graham will be meeting with one of their members and will have a conversation to follow up.

- b. 2024-28 Community Plan
 - HICC extended deadline to February 14, 2025
 - CAB approval requested via email on February 4, 2025. Approved
 - Submitted to HICC on February 12, 2024
 - Will be posted on COA website when approval from HICC is received
 - c. Reaching Home 2024-28 Canada and City of Abbotsford agreement amendment
 - 2-year extension – ends March 31, 2028
 - Funding amounts confirmed
 - 2024-25: additional \$295,185 of incremental funding = \$1,804,946
 - 2025-26: additional \$295,185 of incremental funding = \$1,804,946
 - 2026-27 = \$1,876,291
 - 2027-28 = \$1,876,291
 - **2024-26** funding: \$1,804,946 per year
 - Of the additional \$295,185 per year, \$250,000 to be allocated to subprojects
 - November 2024 CAB E-vote – additional funds to go to existing subprojects and to new subprojects were approved
 - 2024-25 \$251,275 and 2025-26 \$249,605 was allocated to subprojects
 - **2026-28** \$1,876,291 per year
 - Community Plan amounts: Services \$1,031,960; Capital \$187,629; Coordination (includes CA set-up) \$375,258; and Administration: \$281,443
 - will discuss the allocation of these funds to subprojects at the next CAB meeting
5. 2024-26 Subprojects Update
Angie K.
 - a. 16 projects contracted and funded: 5 Services projects; 7 Coordination projects; 4 Capital projects.
 - b. Summary of funds for 2024-25 Fiscal Year
 - Community Plan amount for subprojects = \$1,386,306
 - Contracted \$1,391,950
 - \$5,644 more than the subprojects total was allocated
 - The \$5,644 will be covered by funds from the administration category
 - At the of February, subprojects confirmed that they will spend all 2024-25 funding as per their agreements
6. 2024-25 Unallocated funds
Angie K. and Graham M.
 - a. 2024-25 Funding Overview
 - \$1,804,946 Total with \$270,740 allocated for Administration
 - b. 2024-25 Administration funds remaining = \$32,356
 - c. Allocation of remaining administration funds
 - CEDAR Van request – \$45,000 is the estimated cost
 - Remaining administration funds will support this request.
 - Comment: Previously, CAB decided against funding vehicles. Discussion: The decision applied to the original funding applications, but vehicles have since been funded through slippage and Q4 incremental/top up funding.

7. Coordinated Access Update

Graham M.

- a. CAS staff continue to work with BC Housing, Ministry of Housing and HICC on the Alignment Project and Trilateral Partnership for the Coordinated Access System and the Integrated HIFIS System.
 - Launched in June 2024
 - Involves biweekly meetings with BC Housing, Ministry of Housing, HICC, all BC CE's
 - Working on common documents
 - Headway is slow but progress is being made
 - Working on the integrated HIFIS rolled out is slow – no projected date on roll out
- b. Abbotsford was chosen as a “pilot” community to begin receiving coaching and support from CAEH.
 - Receiving coaching and support
 - Weekly meeting with CAEH, CA staff (BC Housing some) – developing drafts of governance model and vacancy matching process; developed first locally and then taking to CAEH to align them with what is being required
- c. Local CAS Development and local HIFIS Working groups continue to meet to provide feedback on the Alignment project.
 - Meeting together intermittently as needed
 - Interviewing organizations that currently use HIFIS to learn how they are using it and what their needs are and what they'd like to see in the future; ensuring the Integrated HIFIS will work for each organization.
- d. CHIA (Community Homelessness Information App) update
 - Continues to run and get a lot of use.

8. Infrastructure Canada (INFC)

Kiran M.

- a. 2024-28 Funding agreement amendments have been completed and contract has been extended. All 9 BC CE's have been extended to March 31, 2028
- b. Other updates
 - Incremental funding term explanation – funding stabilization/incremental funding – a top up for the 2024-26 fiscal years.
 - Reminder that there is no carry forward to the next fiscal year so the goal is to always spend all funding by March 31 of each fiscal year.

Comments/questions:

- Incremental/stabilization funding has been available in past years. In Abbotsford, it seems we have started to rely on these extra funds coming at the end of the fiscal year. Should we anticipate that there won't be extra funds coming each year?
 - Answer: It is difficult to answer, as we don't know. Keep the knowledge that this has happened in the past, but there is no way to guarantee this.
- The federal budget shows overspending so when get to the year-end and have extra to distribute where are these funds coming from?
 - Answer: funds come from the original total available and are reallocated between the CE's (Community Entities).



9. Member Round Table

- a. Inquiry about CEDAR's project focused on a study to support individuals at rest stops: will the final report extend beyond Abbotsford?
 - Project outcomes include a report and presentations to stakeholders. Yes, it will be made available outside of Abbotsford.
- b. Funds allocated for extreme weather supplies, with outreach teams frequently obtaining needed supplies.
 - Discussion on the cost-effectiveness of laundering good quality sleeping bags versus repurchasing them.
 - Proposal to invest in infrastructure for laundering supplies to ensure sustainability.
 - There is community support for laundry facilities.
- c. Positive recognition given to the CAB and Jesse on the PiT Count and Abbotsford's effective actions to ensure it was done well.
- d. Discussion regarding collaboration between private businesses and nonprofit organizations.
 - Would help to maximize community support and resource acquisition & utilization.
 - Possible RH coordination project– funded position to coordinate these partnerships.
 - Graham will coordinate a meeting with Jesse, Darcy, Chris, and Matthew to discuss this idea in more detail.
- e. Extra funds should benefit the broadest group of people.
 - Abbotsford's extensive outreach efforts can utilize existing infrastructure to make a difference.

10. Adjournment

MOTION: To adjourn meeting.

The motion was made by Graham

CARRIED

The meeting was adjourned at 2:46 pm