

Minutes

Meeting of the SWMPF Our Davis Park Working Group

Friday, 10 October 2014

9.00am – 11.00am

Dick Lawrence Oval, Lefroy Road, Beaconsfield

Chair: Colin Alston (LAC Area Manager, Disability Services Commission)

Participants: Mike Pforr (City of Fremantle); Stephen Johnston (Department of Social Services); Alison Lawrie (Fremantle Multicultural Centre); Rebecca Slavin (Fremantle PCYC); Allira Bolton (Davis Park resident); Michael Carter (DPMC – Perth Indigenous Network); Julie Mitchell (SMYL); Bill Toon (Fremantle Foundation); Karin Mac Arthur (Community Partnership Broker, SWMPF)

Proxies/visitors: Dylan Smith (Fremantle Foundation); Belinda Carcione (Department for Child Protection and Family Support; Traci Tuari (UnitingCare West)

Apologies: Sgt Brad Cooper (WA Police); Jayne Hickman (Department of Housing); Jenny Brooks (Department of Housing); Kim Marshall (Palmerston); Megan Cromarty (South Metropolitan Population Health Unit); David Pigram (South Metropolitan Population Health Unit); Delia Parker (Department of Education)

Approval of minutes of meeting 23 September 2014

The minutes were approved without change.

Update on actions arising from the minutes

- Mike reported that the City of Fremantle had almost completed its grant application for increased lighting in Davis Park (Crime Prevention grant program - \$25,000) and was just waiting for the required input from the local WA Police. He was concerned that he would not receive this in time given that Sgt Brad Cooper had just gone on secondment.
- Rebecca also reported that Fremantle PCYC had completed their application for a youth outreach program in Davis Park and were in the situation as the City of Fremantle regarding outstanding information from the WA Police.

- Alison advised that the Fremantle Foundation's Impact100 donors would be visiting Davis Park at 12.30 on Friday 17 October as part of the assessment process for the grant application submitted by Fremantle Multicultural Centre under the SWMPF banner for a youth development officer. She invited working group members to attend so that the donors could get a first-hand sense of what the Our Davis Park project is about.

Actions:

- Karin to provide both Mike and Rebecca with A/District Superintendent Peter Morrissey's contact details to ensure both grant applications can be submitted on time.
- Alison to send working group members details about the Impact100 donors' site visit to Davis Park together with FMC's application.

Feedback on meeting re Residents' Association

Colin reported on the meeting held with residents at the child care centre on Tuesday 23rd September. The meeting was designed to encourage residents to establish a Residents' Association; however, it was clear at the meeting that the community is not yet ready to take this on. In particular, the residents need to see the benefits of such an Association. In addition, we need to build their confidence in our project and in our commitment to deliver.

The meeting was attended by six residents. There were a number of reasons for the relatively small turn out, including a birthday party and the meeting time. This was further compounded by residents not being allowed to bring children to the meeting.

Notwithstanding the above, the meeting was very useful because:

1. It demonstrated the need to provide residents with an outlet to talk about immediate issues concerning them in relation to housing as well as their perception that the Police and the Department of Housing were "playing handball" with issues they raised.
2. The introduction to a parent who uses the child care centre, but is not resident in Davis Park, demonstrated the need for the working group to communicate with non-residents who have an interest in our project.

Actions:

- Colin to organize a day-time meeting at the Park where residents have the opportunity to ask questions and raise concerns directly with representatives of the Department of Housing and the WA Police. It is likely that this meeting will be held on Tuesday 21 October (subject to Mel's availability). Alison noted that an important outcome of this meeting would be that residents understand the different responsibilities of officers within the Department of Housing. The working group agreed

that a facilitator would be required who would be seen as a neutral party and, ideally, was known to residents. The group agreed that Karin should take on this role.

- Alison to provide Colin with a note on the systemic issues that she believes are causing issues for residents at the Department of Housing.
- Colin and Karin to schedule a presentation to parents at the child care centre in due course.

Setting the scene for workshop

Colin noted that now that we have feedback from residents on what they would like to see happen in Davis Park, the working group has the opportunity to do some great community development work. He called on all members to enter the discussions from the perspective not only of their organisations, but also as individuals and taking account of the issues raised by residents.

The working group noted that the Department of Education had not been represented at meetings on an ongoing basis and this raised concerns as to the group's capacity to deliver the project outcome relating to school attendance.

The working group also regretted that Palmerston was not present given the residents' identification of drug and alcohol abuse as a priority issue.

Colin explained that the workshop was being held to identify initiatives to inform the working group's action plan. It was agreed that the workshop should be undertaken on the basis of the capacity available in the room (plus South Metropolitan Population Health Unit, which had held a separate workshop with Karin the previous week as both representatives would be on leave for this meeting).

Workshop re initiatives to be undertaken by the SWMPF to address issues raised by residents and deliver agreed project outcomes.

Given the points raised above, the working group agreed in the first instance to reconsider the project outcomes and indicators.

The group agreed to delete the third project outcome: 'School-age children and young people attend school'. It is clear, however, that the group will still seek to improve school attendance but through other means, for example, parenting support programs.

The working group also changed the wording of the first project outcome, to replace 'Davis Park enjoys a positive outcome in the media and wider community' with the more realistic 'Davis Park does not have a negative image in the media and the wider community'.

The fourth project outcome was reworded to make 'meaningful activities' clearer by specifying 'educational, vocational and recreational activities'.

Therefore, Our Davis Park now has the following three project outcomes:

1. Davis Park does not have a negative image in the media and the wider community.
2. Davis Park residents feel safe and supported in their community.
3. Children and young people are engaged in educational, vocational and recreational activities.

The working group also made some changes to the indicators. It was agreed that the 'reduction in the number of disruptive behaviour reports' should be replaced by 'reduction in the number of requests for transfer by reason of anti-social behaviour or related issues'.

Similarly, it was agreed that the 'reduction in the number of Police call outs' should be replaced by 'reduction in the number of negative contacts with the Police'.

The group further agreed that the indicator relating to school attendance would be deleted and the final indicator 'increased number of children and young people engaged in recreational activities' would be replaced by 'increased number of children and young people engaged in educational, vocational and recreational activities'.

The four project indicators for Our Davis Park, therefore, now read as follows:

1. Residents report increased sense of safety and well-being (qualitative).
2. Reduction in number of requests for transfer by reason of anti-social behaviour or related issues (quantitative).
3. Reduction in the number of negative contacts with the Police (qualitative).
4. Increased number of children and young people engaged in educational, vocational and recreational activities (qualitative).

In response to the above indicators and the feedback from residents obtained through the survey on 26 July, the working group agreed the following initial initiatives should be taken (the individuals responsible are noted in brackets):

- Approach St John of God to see if they would be willing to provide their outreach Dawn service in Davis Park (Karin to follow up – Julie to provide Karin with contact details).
- DAO to be approached re need AOD outreach service in Davis Park (Michael Carter to follow up).

- Activities for children and young people will be subject to the outcome of PCYC's grant application for a youth outreach program in Davis Park and FMC's application to Impact100 program for a youth development officer.
- Identification of the different youth services available (Julie to follow up) followed by possible linkages.
- Approach to Headspace regarding possible support (Karin to follow up)
- Approach to Department of Housing regarding rubbish left on verges – how to fine individuals when responsible household not immediately identifiable (Karin to follow up)
- Residents' Association, when formed, will be asked to give priority to keeping the Park tidy.
- Approach to Murdoch University (Colin) and UWA (Alison) re community capacity building resources the project could draw upon.
- Dance and music programs (Meg and David)
- Approach to Centrecare to implement 'Aboriginal Dads Support Program' (David to follow up)
- Regular event at Davis Park, but linked into particular Day or Week (eg Seniors Week, Harmony Week, etc). All members to advise Karin of events they would be willing to hold (eg Colin would be willing to have DSC organize event as part of National Disability Awareness Week). Karin will then draw up proposed event schedule.
- Implementation of Parenting Program (Traci to follow up to see if UCW can present proposal to next meeting)
- Buster the Fun Bus – this starts on Tuesday 14 October. The working group thanked the City of Fremantle for this initiative as well as Belinda and DCPFS for supporting it by being available each Tuesday morning to liaise with parents and ensure children are supervised.
- Identification of alternative supports in light of imminent cessation of funding to school-based traineeships and vocational/educational pathways (Karin and Julie).

Next steps

While the above initiatives are only a first step, they will be very useful in informing a proposed action plan to be developed by Colin and Karin for the group's consideration.

Measuring our progress and impact

Karin advised she would be drafting a survey at the earliest opportunity to obtain the qualitative data from residents to enable us to obtain base-line data to measure the project's progress. She would send the draft survey to the working group as soon as it is available. Karin would also endeavour to source quantitative data from the Department of Housing and the WA Police.

FMC (Collene Longmore) has indicated she would be able to access students to assist in interviewing residents. Karin to follow up.



Not-for-profit organisations



Government
(local, State and Commonwealth)



Business



Community



Philanthropy

Any other business

N/A

Next meeting

The next meeting will be held in three weeks' time, at 9am, Friday 31 October.