

Carman Healthy Communities Meeting
Carman Memorial Hall
November 6, 2009

Present: Debbie Iverson, Susan Mooney, Julie Hesketh, Carol Unger, Della Heaman, Rob Smith, Michelle Doerksen, Linda Drewlo, Jane Malcolmson, Marge Warkentin, Sandra Yeo, Brian Petkau, Tyler King, Heidi Sandulak, Georges Picton, George Gray, Lorne Zacharias, Linda MacNair

Chair Susan Mooney called the meeting to order at noon.

Round Table

Julie Hesketh – Public Health – H1N1 has dominated the activities. Vaccination program is much different than expected with only 200 doses received and used for the Priority 1 people only. Priority 1 people are children from 6 mo. to 5 years, people with severe chronic health problems and people with Aboriginal background. Public clinics that were scheduled have presently been postponed. Information has been changing day to day, but the goal is still to vaccinate everyone by the end of December. There are high rates of absenteeism at the schools, and there are several confirmed cases of H1N1 in the community. At this time, there is no expectation to close schools. Mass immunization clinics will be looking for volunteers, and an e-mail will be circulated through the Healthy Communities network once the clinic dates are confirmed.

Della Heaman – Carman Health Auxiliary – the recent tea fundraiser will contribute to the purchase of an electric bed for the Carman Hospital. A new project will be chosen shortly.

Christmas Cheer Board – volunteers will be needed, particularly for December 16th and 17th for packing and delivering hampers. There will be boxes for donations around town, and donations can be dropped off at the Memorial Hall on December 15th & 16th.

Rob Smith – Carman-Dufferin Recreation Commission – First Aid and CPR course being run November 28th at the Memorial Hall – cost \$75. There will also be a babysitting course offered. The aim is to have the renovated arena open by November 30th.

Jane Malcolmson – Active Living Centre – the facility is busy almost every day. There is a Brain Fitness program operating along with many other activities.

Carman Curling Club – leagues are getting started and the junior program will be beginning shortly. The Curling Club and Active Living Centre are exploring the potential for a multi-generational event in January where junior curlers and seniors would curl together, then participate in a variety of activities together at the Active Living Centre (shuffleboard, pool, etc.).

Linda Drewlo – Seniors Resource Centre – the Carman Health Fair was excellent with 513 people in attendance and 433 flu shots administered. There were some interesting new displays. The Council is working on a “police academy”, with an organization meeting scheduled for November 24th. Letters

have gone out to a variety of people (bank managers, lawyers, etc.) in the community to become involved. Identity theft, frauds & scams, elder abuse, emergency preparedness and many more topics are to be covered. This week was Canadian Patient Safety Week, with the slogan "Don't be Afraid to Ask". This program is designed to increase patient awareness and communication with health care providers, and the Patient Advocacy Committee was involved in some of the local programming.

Michelle Derksen – representing Blaine Pedersen, MLA –Michelle noted that she was in attendance to listen and report back to Blaine on activities in the community.

Muriel Derksen – Palliative Care Coordinator – so far this year, there have been 23 patients in the Palliative Care program, which is higher than in the past 3 years. Seventy-nine trees were planted by volunteers in the Palliative Care Garden. Fifty-nine shrubs will be planted between the trees next spring. There are 11 volunteers involved in the program.

Marge Warkentin – Alzheimers Society – the movie "Iris" was being shown at the Active Living Centre the evening of the Health Communities meeting as a fundraiser to cover some administrative cost. The Boyne Lodge is having a garage sale with the proceeds going to the Alzheimers Society. There are support group meetings every month – contact Marge for details. Alzheimers Coffee Breaks raised more than \$11,000 this year. Recently a survey was done to provide comprehensive community information to the Alzheimers Society for approaching government on programming. The Alzheimer Society has accessed some grant money to do a healthy brain seminar, which will be coming to the region within the next year.

Sandra Yeo – Boyne Library – Library had a Halloween Pajama Party on October 29th with 66 children from infants to 10 years old in attendance. It was an excellent event, and plans are being considered for future similar events. Sandra attended a library reading by Suzanne Alexander-Heaton, a child's author who has offered a portion of sales income from her recent book to support the library at the Carman Elementary School. The preferred postal rate that is presently in place for inter-library loans is due to end at the end of December, and Sandra is encouraging everyone on the Council to sign a letter to MP Merv Tweed lobbying for continuation of the program. Tweed introduced the bill to maintain the current program. A letter is also going to Canada Post, Candice Hoepfner, Senators, etc. It was suggested that letters also go to the MLAs, encouraging them to pressure the MPs to support this legislation.

Brian Petkau – Dept of Family Services & Housing – the Carman Mennonite Church is hosting a voluntary service event on November 7th to showcase organizations that do voluntary service around the world. E.G. Food Grains Bank, Mennonite Disaster Service. There are a group of international students coming to talk about their work with organizations in Manitoba. The event is scheduled to begin at 7:30 p.m.

Tyler King – Economic Development Officer – the arena renovations are progressing well, both inside and exterior. Electricians are working on lighting, and the recreation employees are working on the cleanup that needs to be done before the ice plant can be turned on. It is expected that the building will

open before November 30th which is the target opening date. Updates are available on the website. Work is being done on a pathway extension through Legacy Estates, with a bridge to link the Meadowood and hospital area. There is more funding being accessed for a further extension to the pathway beyond this current one. There are new businesses opening in Carman, and there is a business development tool being developed that will be launched within the month. It has been a very busy and productive year, and there will be more major announcements made in the coming months.

Heidi Sandulak – Carman Chamber of Commerce – exploring with the Dufferin Agricultural Society the possibility of amalgamating the Potato Blossom Festival with the Carman Fair.

George Gray –R.M. of Grey - The Heritage Committee will be revived in the near future, and a meeting will be called to launch the group again.

George Picton – Town Council – encouraged people to fill out their recycling survey.

Linda MacNair – Carman Area Foundation – The Foundation is developing a campaign around its push to reach the \$1 million mark in assets (current assets are well over \$900,000). Grant applications for 2010 will be available in January. Ads will be placed in the Valley Leader, and organizations can also access application forms from the Foundation's website at www.carmanareafoundation.com.

Lorne Zacharias – Carman Co-op – overwhelmed by the support of the community following a major vehicle accident – thank you.

Debbie Iverson – has done some preparation work for the Healthy Living Together grants. There are five projects to put forward:

- Evaluation and improvement of the fitness room at the Carman Collegiate to promote moderate to vigorous activity.
- Carman Elementary School is looking at a Healthy Eating program in the context of the balanced school day.
- Boyne Regional Library will be looking at developing a "Healthy Living Resource" section in the Library.
- Midland Adult Education Centre is looking for expanding its brain fitness program with more computers to offer the program to more clients.
- Carman Dufferin Recreation Commission is looking for funds to have skates and helmets available at the arena for families who do not have skates. Linda will provide contact with a sports shop that has excess skates available.

Debbie noted that if there are other groups with some ideas, please contact her.

Safe Communities Canada Program

Debbie has met with Town and R.M. officials and there is interest in pursuing Safe Communities certification. The program requires some local funding for some administrative support, and Tyler and

Debbie will write up a proposal to present to councils for the next budget round. Information will be available shortly for the next steps in the accreditation process, which could lead to further funding for safe community activities in the future.

Aviva Fund

There is a \$500,000 Aviva Insurance Company Fund contest available for funding for a variety of community projects on neighbourhood rejuvenation. Tyler will forward information to the group via e-mail.

Nurse Practitioner

The nurse practitioner project has attracted some strong interest from the Town and R.M. The Reeve and Mayor will attend the AMM Convention, where the provincial health minister will be present, with a proposal for a nurse practitioner for Carman.

International Centre of Hope

Susan and Tom Mooney transport surplus medical supplies to this program's warehouse in Winnipeg, where it is sorted and repaired and sent to destinations throughout the world. Outdated medical supplies are removed from health care facilities in Manitoba immediately upon the expiry date, yet these supplies remain very viable. Organizations and individuals who are going on volunteer international health projects can access these supplies for their programs. There now appears to be commitment from the Central Region RHA to become more widely involved in this program.

Healthy Communities Brochure

Council members agreed that the current wording on the draft brochures is good. Printing will be postponed until new photos and new graphics are available from the Town to make the appearance of the brochure consistent with other information from the Town.

Next Meeting – Friday, December 11th, with speaker Cal Giesbrecht on the topic of Water Management in Carman and Dufferin.

Adjourn: 1:05 p.m.