

**9-10 Club Serving Soup to the Hungry
Meeting of the Board of Directors
May 7 2014**

Meeting called to order at 11 a.m. by Richard Marshall.

Attending: Richard Marshall, Sheila Connelly, Mike Fox, Jim Pungente, Silvia Schoch, Gerry Witteveen

Agenda: Agenda amended to include discussion of Jim's pilot project proposal, the AGM and a change in the Thrifty's pick-up procedure, then adopted as amended.

Minutes of the Meeting of April 9 2014: Minutes were adopted as presented.

Relocation Issues: There are currently no issues with our operations at Our Place. Richard advised that, with Sheila and Silvia, he met Don Evans to inform him that the 9-10 Club will make a monthly payment of \$550 to Our Place to cover additional costs associated with hosting the 9-10 Club. Don was asked whether Our Place has a wish list of projects that require financing; he agreed to provide one. A wish list was requested to determine whether the 9-10 Club can assist in making one come true we leave Our Place. Silvia indicated the 9-10 Club could attend Our Place's summer barbeque. Based on an informal survey of volunteers, the Board decided a separate function was a better option so we will organize a barbeque at Mike's home on June 28. **Mike, Sheila and Gerry** to discuss arrangements. **Silvia** to inform Our Place we will not attend their barbeque.

Cathedral Renovation Status: Sheila had circulated an email progress report that Chris prepared for the Cathedral. The report indicates work is on schedule. Gerry advised brick walls are being removed and the balcony will be closed from Sunday as a safety precaution.

Financial Status: Mike indicated that donations are a bit below budget and expenses, excluding the \$20,000 Cathedral payment, are currently \$1000 under budget in part due to reduced grocery expenses. He advises that capital gains in our investment account (@ 8%) offset our Cathedral payment. Mike has taken donation management from Leonard and is looking at donation details with the goal of improving communications with donors. **Mike and Silvia** to meet to discuss donations and donor communications. **Richard** will provide Mike with a list of donations through Canada Helps.

Addressing the Cathedral's Street Concerns: Mike wants a Cathedral representative involved in the development of the plan for addressing street concerns. **Sheila** will arrange a meeting with Father John: **Mike and Silvia** to also attend. If the Cathedral does not want to participate, the 9-10 Club will independently develop a plan.

Public Relations: Silvia circulated her article on Arnie and Jackie Van Campen, which will be published in the Cathedral's bulletin. The article has been given to the Times/Colonist and it was suggested she approach the Victoria Daily News (and sister publications). Silvia indicated she would have time to generate articles in the fall. Richard advised blog posts should start when we have a steady flow of articles. **Silvia** will look at Wordpress blog posts and advise Richard of formats that she likes.

NEW BUSINESS

Jim's **pilot project proposal** (attached) was discussed and deferred until January 2015 when we are back in the Cathedral basement.

Agreed the 9-10 Club would hold its **AGM** on Wednesday, September 10. All Board Members should give some thought to possible Board candidates. Sheila, assisted by Chris and Don, will form our Nominations Committee.

Mike advised Thrifty's (Sobey's) issued a letter detailing how donations will be provided. Details currently are sketchy. **Mike** has contacted the store manager and will advise if there are issues. Silvio may be able to assist as he knows the store manager.

Adjournment: Being no further business, Richard declared the meeting adjourned. Next Board meeting on Wednesday, June 4.

The Future of the 9-10 club SoupKitchen (proposal from Jim Pungente)

1. Historical

Thirty years ago, Murray and Edna Black recognized the need to feed certain individuals. They were pioneers in Victoria in the service of feeding the hungry. They were instrumental in starting meal services (soup) which started on Friday, November 12th, 1982. From six clients on opening day, The Soup Kitchen now serves between 150-300 clients a day. The only other organization to serve meals in Victoria at that time was the Salvation Army which had just opened at its present location on Johnson and Wharf streets.

2. Present Day Downtown Facilities and Services

Many organizations have come to the forefront since Murray and Edna Black started the 9-10 Club to provide not only food but many other services to the disenchanting, the homeless, the addicted, the troubled as well as the hungry. Many of these people are seen as undesirables by the general public who wish they would disappear.

Reverend Al Tysick was most influential to recognize, procure and promote a place where all; no matter what their conditions, could call home. Through his efforts these people had a place not only to call home but to find all the services they need and this is called "Our Place". There are two other agencies in Victoria that have the expertise and facilities to provide these needed services and that is the "Salvation Army" at Johnson and Wharf and "Street Link" at Rock Bay Landing. All are supported in part by both the provincial and our municipal government as it has been recognized as a community need.

It also is a place where all those with problems and addictions that the public at large do not want to be bothered by are contained in one area and away from the public at large. This is a sad and sorry statement but it is true.

3. The 9-10 Club SoupKitchen Present Location.

Our present location and the problems it presents to the Cathedral and neighbouring business have been ongoing for a long period of time. We have had countless complaints from both. Both object to

our patrons loitering on the sidewalks outside the kitchen entrance. We have learned that the Cathedral while welcoming us back have placed an additional caveat that we control patrons from lawfully standing on the sidewalks, which they consider loitering, outside the entrance to the soup kitchen. Not only are we to control these lawful actions but we are to do this without qualified security personnel. Whether this is right or wrong on their part is a mute point. They do not want them there and there is no way to change their opinion. In our eyes we are doing them a service, but in their eyes we are doing a disservice to the downtown community.

Since our facility does not have a proper common area or the expertise to handle this type of situation we expect this situation of back and forth confrontations with the Cathedral and local businesses to continue as long as we serve soup there.

4. Our Patrons and what we offer them.

Our strength is in feeding the hungry. We have a very efficient operation with a small footprint and a relatively small budget. The demographics of our patrons are mostly low income men in an age category of 50 to 65. It was noted that some live out of the downtown area and come here for the morning soup. These patrons could find food at two other downtown locations but come here because of the atmosphere. About 5 to 10 percent of our patrons are younger people in their twenties and thirties. These are the people who have their packs, their dogs and like to congregate on the sidewalk to smoke, drink coffee and generally relax.

5. Our Place operations.

As we have seen, Our Place is very well run and has all the facilities needed for the disenfranchised, the homeless, the addicts and the mentally troubled. Besides all the personal services they provide, they also serve three meals a day. Breakfast is porridge every weekday with special breakfasts on some weekdays as well. Their aim is to develop enough financial support to have special breakfasts every weekday. When this time comes, there will be no necessary need for our soup kitchen to operate in the downtown area as it will be covered by both Our Place and the Salvation Army.

6. Opportunities for the 9-10 Club

Our problems with the Cathedral and neighboring businesses still remain.

However, to move to another location would incur prohibited costs for kitchen equipment and monthly rent.

We have made a substantial investment at our present location and because of that and the reasonable rent, we would not like to give up this facility.

However, we could continue to use this facility to cook our soup but serve it at another facility. From our experience of the Our Place operations we can see that this is not difficult.

The region that could best use our meal service would be the low income people in the Blanshard Courts/George Jay area. We would attract not only the same demography as we do now, but also women with their children also; much like the clientele at the Rainbow kitchen.

There is a community centre there that would welcome our meal service and where it could be dispensed. This could consist of a morning soup or it may be better suited for a noon soup and sandwich.

This would be our opportunity when "Our Place" has it's special breakfast in place full time and another kitchen in the downtown core is no longer needed

7. Survey

When we move back into our basement facility at St. Andrew's Church, I suggest we take a formal survey to determine where our patrons live or travel from for our soup service. Talk to the people at Blanshard Community Centre to see if they would support this pilot and how many would take advantage of this service there.

8. Pilot Project

Initiate a pilot project at the Blanshard Community Centre for set period of time.(a reasonable trial period, say three months). The pilot would consist of a lunch soup and possibly sandwiches.

From a logistical side, we would cook one more pot of soup in the morning and the volunteers could make a few sandwiches. Then all that would be needed is a special container to ship our soup (We could buy or borrow one from the Salvation Army who uses these for the winter EWP program) and a volunteer with a vehicle. The Blanshard Community Centre would be able to find volunteers to serve the soup and sandwiches. I suggest one of our team leaders supervise this pilot.

9. Staying in the downtown area.

If we find that the need is to stay in the downtown area, then I suggest to keep the good will of the downtown community, we look to partner up with Our Place permanently and make and server our soup there as we are now presently doing.

10. Proposal.

My proposal to the board under New Business is to implement step 8.