

Elmwood Community Hub Subcommittee

Fri Mar 12, 2021 1:00-2pm (zoom)

Meeting Notes

Attendance – Dean Leifso, Dale Ahrens, Michael Sugden, Beth Hamilton

Meeting #1 – Brainstorm

What has Elmwood lost over the years?

- Library: children's programs, book club, writers groups, computer, internet, book browsing
- School – kids are bussed out to a wide range of regions
- Daycare program in summer
- Minor sports
- Churches (1 remaining)
- Hotel

Challenges

- centre is not central, not highly visible (*Brockton will be rebuilding the road that runs past Elmwood Community Centre and there's provision for a sidewalk to the centre)
- 2 large rooms, no smaller meeting rooms
- Accessibility improvements
- The board is a managing board, does not fundraise and plan activities
- Board oversees 2 properties, disconnected

What's been working well at Elmwood Community Centre?

- Kitchen upgrades – it was felt this would attract users
- Seniors exercises – not a lot of setup, reduced rate
- Wing nights – gather & visit
- High speed internet
- Air conditioning
- Coming soon – conference technology
- Elmwood Chamber fundraises for the centre

How do we define community hub?

- cultural hub
- recreational hub
- anywhere community can congregate
- socialize
- meet and work together
- people don't know their neighbours anymore
- reduced cost or no cost to user
- welcoming
- is the hub a single place or multiple locations?
- health, social services?

Need to assess what community wants/needs

- Data driven
- Elmwood Chamber is developing a survey
- Brockton Recreation Master Plan
- Demographic – Stats Can. Data – how many children in the area, average age, etc...
- What's the current usage for the centre (gather data from Linda)- where are there usage gaps and how best to fill these gaps?
- Take stock of community infrastructure (meeting rooms, parks, kitchens etc)
- List active organizations and events in Elmwood
- SWOT analysis from a few years ago
- How far are people willing to travel to attend events/programs?
- How important is technology/internet access

Developing support for the community hub

- Who has pride in this being "their" community centre?
- We have people who will attend events/programs and we have people who will give time/volunteer/support/fundraise for the community
- The community centre means a lot to long-time community members, newer people to the community don't necessarily have the same attachment
- Does the broader community know about Elmwood Community Centre?
- Consider development of "Friends of Elmwood" community group – fundraising
- Community gardens (West Grey grant pending) would promote regular use of the property, encouraging whole family to participate, develop relationship with 'the hub'

Who do we need to connect with?

- Grey Bruce Poverty Task Force (data, community needs)
- Chamber – survey
- Brockton – Rec Master Plan
- West Grey, Brockton, Bruce, Grey
- Welcoming Grey Bruce
- Bruce County Library – bookmobile
- Economic Development – lower and upper tiers

Beginning in April, regularly scheduled meetings will be: Fourth Wednesday, 7:30-8:30pm

ACTIONS

- Dale – circulate draft chamber survey
- Beth & Dean – at council, highlight the motions from the Elmwood Community Centre Board minutes regarding the formation of this subcommittee

Next Meeting: Wed March 24, 8pm

- solidify mandate & goals
- Write letter to introduce the subcommittee to lower and upper tiers