

## Working Group Meeting for Pool Project Minutes Tuesday, July 28, 2009

### In Attendance:

- Chris
- Sorabhi
- Shabana
- Fauzia
- Suad
- Bridget
- Janet
- Margaret
- Amina
- Chelva
- Ali
- Elias? (Has a website)
- Alex
- Melody
- Golbon
- Shalini

### Notes:

- **Coalitions explored:**
  - People for Education were contacted. They cannot get involved in lobbying at a local level but they connected us to 'Let's Make Waves'.
  - 'Let's Make Waves' is an organization partnered with AWG
  - City of Toronto commissioned a report in April 2004 on how to improve use and accessibility to indoor pools:
    - 71 indoor pools, 40 of which are in TDSB schools
    - Report found that barriers to use of indoor pools:
      - Are not cultural background of people; Pools are widely used by new immigrant families.
      - People travel to make more use of large pools in the city, rather than the smaller pools.
      - Use of pools is dependent on maintenance of the facility.
    - After speaking with Janet, through AWG's communications with the City, the City is not able to support financially, and it has been difficult to partner with them to apply for federal funds.
  - We may want to look into the Parents Reaching Out (PRO) grant, for which CMT has received some money for tutoring but we need to think about other uses for the grant (something related to the pool programs) and apply again.
  - Sofia did some outreach to Toronto Community Housing, and will follow up with them to see what funds they can contribute for pool use.
- **Responses to Date:**
  - 87 people have responded online, 118 forms have been collected, Total of 205 responses

- Responses indicated that 60% are willing to pay a small fee and 60% are willing to volunteer or help the program.
- People don't know that a pool exists at Jarvis
- We'll stop counting responses on August 18<sup>th</sup>
- **Why we need this pool:**
  - Health and Safety
  - Incident in Kingston of an immigrant family drowning in a pool.
  - Evidence of literacy (Ali to share this article with us)
  - Articles from Toronto Star & Globe & Mail (From Amina, could someone who has access to these share them?)
- **Outreach:**
  - Have flyers available at libraries
  - We can get others outside of the neighbourhood to sign up
  - Alex will create a poster of 2 paragraphs about reasons for why we need this pool
  - How can we engage High School Students? Facebook – Chris will look at embedding the link on to Facebook.
  - We can start to write letters now to our MPs. Get Ali to send us the articles
  - Media: Sorabhi is working on writing an article for a newspaper – possibly the Mirror or Toronto Voice
- **Position Paper:**
  - Ask Margaret to send the soft copy of her notes
  - Access book: Unequal Opportunities, Unequal Outcomes to reference
  - Developing a voice in St. James Town: Many families come from a 'Culture of Silence' (Amina) where people have born injustices in silence. How can we change this?
  - Look at TLC reports
  - Write about the process that the community has engaged in for this project so it can be a Case Study for advocacy training. (Steps, Advocacy training, making coalitions, Strategies, did we miss people)
  - Look at the successes of how Regent Park had their new pool built
    - Who were the key players?
    - How did they develop a strong voice?
- **Communications with Working Group:**
  - We need email addresses and phone numbers for the following people:
    - What was the name of the man who has a website that is popular in the Somalie community? What is his phone number and email address?
    - Alex (social worker), what is his last name, phone number and email address?
    - Fauzia Rashid, what is her email address?
    - Do Bridgette and Fowzia Yousouf have email addresses?
- **Next Meetings:**
  - AWG Aug 20<sup>th</sup>
  - TDSB Aug 24<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30pm, 5050 Yonge St.

- Equity of Access: Suggesting Community-Based approach to permitting the pool
- CMT is working on permitting the pool on 6 different programs for 280 hours