

Rachel Dumas

From: Jackie Powell
Sent: March 8, 2016 3:45 PM
To: Rachel Dumas
Subject: Re: Letter of Support for a Clubhouse International

Hello Rachel,

The letter should ideally follow the example of Mayor Lisa Helps. It would be addressed "To Whom It May Concern". The address is c/o

Jackie Powell
2063 Renfrew Road
Victoria, BC
V8P 1S3

The intention of the letter is to add it to our collection of support letters as viewed on our website: We have received many and can all be viewed on line at www.momslikeus.ca

The purpose of the letter is to prove that community support is in place for a Clubhouse International. Additionally, Island Health has told us (trying to get this in writing) that they will not fund a Clubhouse International. Rehabilitation of the mentally ill is the mandate of Island Health. Island Health has advised that any funds available for this purpose will go towards funding existing services.

We believe (Moms Like Us) that we will have to proceed with private funding - that is why we require the support of the community - so that when we approach funders we can prove we have the community support.

Please let me know if you require any further information.

Many thanks, Jackie

On Mar 8, 2016, at 3:35 PM, Rachel Dumas <rachel.dumas@esquimalt.ca> wrote:

Good Afternoon Jackie,

Please find attached correspondence regarding your request from your email received February 04, 2016.

Rachel Dumas
Administrative Assistant & Recording Secretary
Corporate Services
Township of Esquimalt
Telephone: 250-414-7157
www.esquimalt.ca



CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ESQUIMALT

Municipal Hall, 1229 Esquimalt Road, Esquimalt, B.C. V9A 3P1
Website: www.esquimalt.ca Email: info@esquimalt.ca

Voice: (250) 414-7100
Fax: (250) 414-7111

Via email to j _____

March 08, 2016

Attention: Jackie Powell

Dear Ms.Powell:

With reference to your email dated February 04, 2016, the Council of the Township of Esquimalt at its Regular Meeting of February 22, 2016, made the following resolution:

"That Council direct staff to seek clarification regarding who the letter should be directed to and purpose of support for Clubhouse International."

Should you have any further questions at this time, please contact me at rachel.dumas@esquimalt.ca or 250-414-7157.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "RDumas".

Rachel Dumas
Corporate Services, The Corporation of the Township of Esquimalt



January 29 2015

To Whom It May Concern,

I'm writing to lend my voice to the growing number of community leaders stepping forward in support of the establishment of an Accredited International Clubhouse in Greater Victoria.

In March 2014 a group of moms came to see me at City Hall. They all have adult children struggling with mental health challenges. They had recently learned of the Clubhouse International approach to psychosocial rehabilitation during a visit to the Pathways Clubhouse in Richmond B.C. They sat me down, shared their stories, and outlined the struggles their children face. They then outlined the gaps in the continuum of care in Greater Victoria and pointed to Clubhouse as a patient-centered, recovery-based, employment-focused approach to psychosocial rehabilitation.

They said they were advocating for the establishment of their a Clubhouse in Greater Victoria not only for their own children, but for other adult children, already homeless, already street-entrenched who don't have "mom's like us," as they said.

Since our initial meeting last March I've been working with the Mom's Like Us group to help bring together relevant stakeholders and make something happen. What moved me to help is that the Clubhouse model is focused on a work-ordered day. In the Clubhouse, members (not patients!) work alongside staff. And, in order to become accredited, Clubhouses must have a transitional employment program where they partner with local businesses who agree to hire Clubhouse members. If a member is unable to attend her/his shift at the business, a staff member fills in so their employer is not put out. Access to meaningful, regular work is a key challenge for people living with mental health challenges, yet it is so important for dignity and empowerment.

Mental illness, homelessness, lack of affordable housing and poverty are reaching a crisis level in Greater Victoria and in the City of Victoria in particular. As a result, our most vulnerable residents are struggling and need our care, support and attention. This is not to say that there is no hope, as we are fortunate enough to have a number of organizations and concerned citizens out on the streets working towards a better future. Our largest challenge is prevention, and to help people *before* they end up on the streets. This is where an accredited Clubhouse could fill another large gap.

THE CITY OF VICTORIA



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

The evidence-based model of Clubhouse International is a model well worth piloting in Greater Victoria. The social return on investment is high and the potential savings in policing and health care/acute care costs could be significant. I look forward to continue working with the Mom's Like Us, Island Health and others to move this initiative to fruition.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Lisa Helps".

Lisa Helps
Mayor of Victoria