

From: ["Mochrie, Paul" <Paul.Mochrie@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Paul.Mochrie@vancouver.ca)
To: ["Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"](#)
Date: 2/15/2023 4:31:33 PM
Subject: Navigation Centre update - RTS 14812
Attachments: ACCS - GM - Memo (Council) - Navigation Centre update - RTS 14812 (2023-02-11).pdf

Dear Mayor and Council,

Attached please find a memo from Sandra Singh, General Manager, Arts Culture and Community Services regarding an update on efforts to develop a Navigation Centre in Vancouver (RTS 14812).

- **Background:** BC Housing and the City of Vancouver are partnering to launch a Navigation Centre – one of two Navigation Centres - announced through the Province's 2020 Budget. The Province committed \$1.5 million in operating funding for each Navigation Centre for three years (so a total of \$4.5m to Vancouver to operate the Navigation Centre). The City has committed \$1.76m for lease and tenant improvements funded through EHT.
- The project has been delayed due to the inability to secure a space for the project.
- BC Housing and CoV staff have been actively working to identify a suitable site for the navigation centre. This included working with a non-profit to use a site they were going to purchase on Alexander Street. Ultimately, after over a year of planning, the purchase did not proceed, the site was sold to another buyer and use for the navigation centre was no longer an option.
- Staff, along with BCH, have recently viewed and are in discussions with owners on two potential site options – one in the DTES and one just outside the DTES. In determining suitability, staff factor in location, layout, as well as building condition and life safety features through inspections with DBL and VFSR.
- Given the length of time that has passed since the original funding was approved, BC Housing is bringing forward a proposal for the two sites to the Province (Ministry of Housing and Treasury Board) for approval. The results of the decision should be known by the end of the month.
- Staff will bring forward a report to Council in Q2 recommending a grant to BC Housing for tenant improvements and lease costs as per the original contribution agreement.

If you have any questions, please email Sandra directly and she will ensure questions are responded to through the weekly Q&A.

Best,
Paul

Paul Mochrie (he/him)
City Manager
City of Vancouver
paul.mochrie@vancouver.ca



MEMORANDUM

February 11, 2023

TO: Mayor & Council

CC: Paul Mochrie, City Manager
Armin Amrolia, Deputy City Manager
Karen Levitt, Deputy City Manager
Rosemary Hagiwara, Acting City Clerk
Maria Pontikis, Chief Communications Officer, CEC
Teresa Jong, Administration Services Manager, City Manager's Office
Mellisa Morphy, Acting Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office
Trevor Ford, Director of Operations, Mayor's Office

FROM: Sandra Singh, General Manager, Arts, Culture and Community Services

SUBJECT: Update on the Navigation Centre

RTS #: 14812

PURPOSE

This memo provides an update to Mayor and Council on efforts to develop a Navigation Centre in Vancouver.

BACKGROUND

BC Housing and the City of Vancouver are partnering to launch a Navigation Centre – one of two Navigation Centres - announced through the Province's 2020 Budget. The Province committed \$1.5 million in operating funding for each Navigation Centre for three years (so a total of \$4.5m to Vancouver to operate the Navigation Centre). The City has committed \$1.76m for lease and tenant improvements funded through EHT.

The first site is planned for Vancouver and the second site is anticipated to be on Vancouver Island. BC Housing issued an RFP for the Vancouver Navigation Centre operator and Community Builders Group was selected in the fall of 2021.

The project has been delayed due to the inability to secure a space for the project.

DISCUSSION

The Navigation Centre Model

The proposed Navigation Centre in Vancouver would be the first of its kind in Canada. While they exist in the States, the Vancouver concept is for an innovative shelter model that more fully integrates the systems of care and provides wrap-around supports including shelter, system navigation and housing ready stabilization, integrated clinical health supports, and housing placement services to under-connected unsheltered people experiencing chronic homelessness.

The goals of the Navigation Centre are to:

- to reach chronic unsheltered individuals that do not access traditional shelter models;
- prioritize Indigenous peoples and provide culturally appropriate services;
- provide low-barrier entry that includes storage of belongings, and where pets and partners are welcome;
- connect clients to health services to meet their complex unmet health needs; and
- pilot a new referral system into shelter.

BC Housing and the City of Vancouver have been working with Vancouver Coastal Health and Kilala Lelum, an Indigenous health centre, to plan the specific health services that will be available at the site.

Site Identification

BC Housing and CoV staff have been actively working to identify a suitable site for the navigation centre. This included working with a non-profit to use a site they were going to purchase on Alexander Street. Ultimately, after over a year of planning, the purchase did not proceed, the site was sold to another buyer and use for the navigation centre was no longer an option.

Staff, along with BCH, have recently viewed and are in discussions with owners on two potential site options – one in the DTES and one just outside the DTES. In determining suitability, staff factor in location, layout, as well as building condition and life safety features through inspections with DBL and VFSR.

Related Work: Community Building Society Project

Staff have also been in conversation with the Community Building Society (CBS) who are developing a proposed Lifeline Project to meet the needs of approximately three hundred people living in Vancouver who are experiencing homelessness and a range of unmet complex and concurrent health needs. The proposed model includes an outreach component, a welcome centre for intake and assessment, and portable funding to connect individuals to needed housing and support services. CBS is currently seeking Provincial funding – should they be successful, staff will continue to work with them to ensure coordinate and alignment between the concepts.

NEXT STEPS

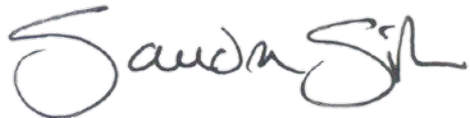
Given the length of time that has passed since the original funding was approved, BC Housing is bringing forward a proposal for the two sites to the Province (Ministry of Housing and Treasury Board) for approval. The results of the decision should be known by the end of the month.

Staff will bring forward a report to Council in Q2 recommending a grant to BC Housing for tenant improvements and lease costs as per the original contribution agreement.

FINAL REMARKS

The navigation centre concept is a new, enhanced shelter model that seeks to support people experiencing chronic homelessness who won't engage in the current shelter system. Meeting these individuals where they are at, and bringing them to a space that is welcoming, and provides the enhanced, wrap around supports they need in order that they can quickly be moved into more permanent housing would improve the lives of those suffering the most.

If Council requires further information, please feel free to contact me directly at sandra.singh@vancouver.ca and we will provide response through the weekly Council Q&A.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sandra Singh". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Sandra" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Singh".

Sandra Singh, General Manager
Arts, Culture, and Community Services
sandra.singh@vancouver.ca