

205 Kingsway Community Advisory Committee

Meeting Notes
November 3, 2021
5:00 – 6:00 pm

1. Territorial Acknowledgement

2. Introductions

- COV Homelessness Services – 2 representatives
- COV Homelessness Services - Note Taker
- Ideaspace - Ideaspace
- Coast Mental Health – 3 representatives
- BC Housing – 1 representative
- Community Members – 4 representatives
- Mount Pleasant Community Centre – 1 rep
- Little Mountain Neighbourhood House – 1 rep
- Collingwood Community Policing Centre – 1 rep
- VPD – Collingwood CPC Liaison

3. CAC Purpose and Terms of Reference

- Purpose of the CAC is to facilitate information sharing and dialogue between this group and members of the community. It is a place to discuss any building-related issues that may arise and also seek opportunities to strengthen community connections.
- Not all issues that come up at this table will be able to be addressed by this group. We will do our best to connect those with concerns to the appropriate channel. There are many complex issues in the community and this group will only be able to attend to items directly related to 205 Kingsway.
- Members should be familiar with the terms of reference circulated and will be asked to sign and send back following this first meeting.

4. Update on Current Conditions

a. Coast Mental Health

- Nearly half of all 68 units have been tenanted to date.
- All new residents meet with a social worker on move-in to assess needs and identify goals.
- A peer program of residents completing courtesy “Neighbourhood Sweeps” is happening three times per week. Peers clean the area of litter and drug paraphernalia within a 1 block radius of the building.
- Program planning has started with tenants. Identifying events, activities, and program options that tenants would like to see in the building.
- Peer Support Program has also begun, providing space for peers with lived experience to connect with tenants for support and mentorship.

b. Questions

- Originally stated that local area residents would be prioritized for building, how many residents are actually from the area?
 - 29 are currently moved-in, 4 more moving in this week.
 - 5 residents of former Little Mountain TMH site have moved to 205 Kingsway
 - All other residents are from the local neighbourhood.

- Coast continues to work with BC Housing and Carnegie Outreach to identify local area residents to move in.
- During the site tour it was said that a number would be provided for community members to call when they need to report something.
 - Coast Mental Health has put together a list of numbers and contacts, will be shared with this group and can be shared more widely.
- What are the plans of the Community Policing Centre in the area?
 - VPD does patrols through the area already, and the Community Policing Centre volunteers do patrols through the neighbourhood regularly as well.
 - If anything were to happen, or if issues persist, the CPC or VPD can increase their patrol frequencies in certain areas.
- Why is the building not fully tenanted yet?
 - There is a referral process for tenancing. Every week we meet with BC Housing to discuss potential tenants who will be successful in the building. Last week we moved 6 people in. It is an intentional process to ensure that tenants have a smooth transition into the housing and that staff and support services can be put in place.
 - The intent is to have the building full by the end of November. Most supportive housing is full at all times, there is very little turnover, and tenants usually stay for quite some time.
 - The best practice is to take time to allow for an adjustment of tenants, many of whom have been living outside for some period of time. It also gives time for staff to focus individualized initial assessment and supportive program development.
- **What things does the building need for tenants?**
 - Coast is always **looking for donations** of food – they currently receive bread donations twice a week.
 - Weather appropriate clothing is the primary concern and request for donations, ie. New or lightly used jackets, sweaters, mitts, toques
 - Men's pants and belts
 - New underwear and socks
 - Toiletries
 - Please call before dropping off donations, and if there are items not on the list that community members want to drop off, please call in advance to discuss, 604 - 566 - 1622
- What sort of amenity spaces are available, and how does the meal program work?
 - There is a tenant lounge with computers, couches, tables and chairs. It is where most of the programming will take place.
 - Meal program includes a light breakfast with coffee in the morning and a full dinner with entree and dessert in the evening.
- All rooms are for single occupancy. Couples may live in the building but each will have their own room.
- Is there space in the tenant lounge for advertising community resources or groups?
 - There is a community resource board in the lounge and Coast is always looking for information to share with tenants about Buy Nothing Groups, community resources, etc.

5. Roundtable Discussion

a. Challenges or concerns

- What are the current resources available for residents in the building (e.g. addictions support)?
 - Coast is getting to know all of their new tenants and is tailoring programming to their needs.
 - There is a social worker, tenant support worker, and peer specialist currently working in the building.
- Are there employment opportunities within the community for residents, through the BIA or otherwise?
 - There is the Club House across the street, as well as internal employment and volunteer opportunities for residents in the building.
- How is success measured for the site, what kind of metrics are being used to determine if things are working well?
 - All residents move in at various stages of need, success will look different and take different amounts time for each resident.
 - BC Housing looks at vacancy and turnover rates, incidents happening around the site, as well as conduct satisfaction surveys with residents.
 - Success is ultimately an increase in overall well-being of residents and that they are able to maintain their housing.
 - There are metrics that address in-house operations of housing as well as external community impacts of housing.

6. Action Items and Next Steps

- Next meeting will be in about a month's time – Invite will come from COV and Coast
- COV will send out meeting notes to the group shortly

Coast Mental Health Contact Information

- 205 Kingsway Office – 604-566-1622
- Coast Head Office – 604-872-3502 or email info@coastmentalhealth.com
- <https://www.coastmentalhealth.com/>

More Information

If anyone has any further comments or questions to direct them to Andrea Jung and the Homelessness Services team at homelessness@vancouver.ca and they will follow up with you directly.

Additional information on the City of Vancouver's efforts to address homelessness can be found here:

- [Homelessness Services](#)
- [Supportive Housing](#)
- [Shelters and Winter Response Strategy](#)
- [Rapid Response to Homelessness](#)