

DRAFT NOTES
DTES LAPP JULY 11, 2012
W2 MEETING ROOM 2:30 TO 5:00 PM
SOCIAL SERVICES AND HOUSING PROVIDERS STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT #1

ATTENDANCE: Alka Murphy (PACE Society), Caroline Allen (PACE Society), Patrick Stewart (Aboriginal Homeless Steering Committee), Bill Briscal (Rain City Housing), Julie Turcotte (Dugout Drop in Centre), Ross Banister (First United Church), Steve Bouchard (Raycam), Scott Clark (ALIVE), Dave Jagpal (Ministry Social Development), Anntee Greer (Open Door Group), Kathleen Leahy (UBC Learning Exchange), Ethel Whitty (Carnegie Centre), Victoria Bull (LAPP Rep), Karen Ward (Gallery Gachet), Michelle Fortin (WATARI), Tanya Fink (Social Policy -COV), Celine Maubolies (COV), Stephen Gray (First United Church), Zoe Paterson (First United Church), Kate Gibson (WISH), Cherie White (DTES Greenhouse), Andrea Smith (Canadian Centre for Policy Alternative), Hendrik Hoekema (Urban Core), Carolyn Wong (PIVOT Legal Society), Peter Wrinch (Pivot Legal Society), Stephen Epp (Strathcona Mental Health), Stephanie Warren (Open Door Group), Michael Clague (LAPP Co-Chair), Karen O'Shannacery (LAPP Rep), Ingrid Hwang (COV), Lane Walker (Jackson Avenue Housing Coop), Olivia Tang (S.U.C.C.E.S.S), Marcia Nozick (EMBERS), Brian Postlewait (Mission Possible), Leslie Stern (Lower Mainland Network)

1. HOW ARE YOU INVOLVED?

Kathleen Leahy

- UBC learning exchange, 12 years a unit from UBC around educational activities. Place-based approach...asking "What people want, what do they want to do...we have computer labs, drop ins to access computers, sessions for people - free entry: includes word, PowerPoint, and training of local residents turning them into resources to each other. Digital divide is reduced by teaching others..."tell us what you want" ...arts, learning. Focus is on working in partnership within the neighbourhood

Ethel Witty

- Carnegie Community Centre serves the Chinese community, aboriginal and the general population. Not a social service rather offers recreation, leisure, interacting and learning. The community centre association runs the programming. Serves low cost foods, a literary centre, pool tables and card games. Staff at Oppenhiemer Park sees people that don't normally come to the centre. It is their home as well. The Carnegie Outreach Team has become a housing team as well as handing out information and has housed 400 per year, each spring a review is done to see how many remain housed.

Lane Walker

- Sector: Jackson Housing coop. 35 people: families and singles. 20 years focus on serving low and moderate incomes. Have a management model that help resident's move towards ownership in stages.

Victoria Bull

- LAPP Committee member: Moved here 1990 from Surrey. Knows the area well and works as a volunteer for schools and Carnegie community centre. Social work program was in Surrey now here. Raising a grandchild. Mavis MacMillan housing needs repairs.

Karen Ward

- Gallery Gachet, and LAPP member. Artist run centre employs mentally ill and provides a space that is warm and inviting for those that are in recovery to help with initial steps to get back out into the world. Funding from VCH, community health top priority. Hold events in Oppenhiemer Park to celebrate their work. Community exhibitions each year, very creative area. Artist run centre - peer based. Powerful activities based on local knowledge.

Steve Bouchard

- RayCam Cooperative Centre, serving now for 14 years. Mission to build capacity: social and educational components for those living in the community. Level of kids not graduating is high and there is a need for life skills as well as education. We train youth to become instructors in the community like the Jane 7? Program. Is the highest used community centre in Vancouver. Next capital plan cycle we will redevelop RayCam into a large multipurpose facility, to bring non-profits into the centre, with housing. Single moms and seniors have gaps in their housing supports. Non-profit social enterprises will be on the ground floor, currently working with Parks Board on the details. Need to review our operating agreement with Parks to accommodate the new future centre. We are a social and recreation service to the community.

Scott Clark

- Alive. We need a broader social and economic approach to the entire system, not an isolated approach...it doesn't work, and we need to be more fully engaged with everyone. Not main streams Aboriginal paradigm... 40% urban aboriginals are homeless. Wanting to create aboriginal space in all Vancouver communities, and at community centres. Building on the Place Space approach. Need to remove silos and empower residents locally.

Michelle Fortin

- Watari, 800 block E Hasting. Services Latin Americas through recreation uses. BCMS in partnership. Youth team outreach and a youth and family counselling team. Work with men living at UGM to work deeper with clients, e.g., transport people, and work with local schools for learning and understanding purposes. Provide supports to front line workers, care days, ongoing training and clinical supports. Supporting front workers to be healthier, reduce burn outs.

Dave Jagpal

- Ministry of Social Development, provide income assistance to approx. 8000 recipients, Focus on homeless needs and on drug court. 25 years working in the DTES, and supervises these offices.

Karen O'Shannacery

- Outlook Emergency Aids Society. We provide housing and social services. Function as a safety net...housing opportunities and removing barriers to accessing other support services...then through shelters we try to get them off the street and then engaged and form relationships to engage services that they need. Transitional and permanent housing is offered, 650 housing units. Operates 15 sites in the DTES (SROs, one staff person supports 35 tenants). We teach budgeting skills, medication use. Supportive housing has 2 staff people, Hazelton receive people with multi-barriers. Jim Greene housing operates where tenants run their own services. We are advocates on behalf of their rights.

Annette Greer

- Open door group. Provide employment and recreation programs. WorkBC centre works with all residents, aboriginals, plus 14 other partners. Collaborative approach via the employment centre. Self-serve services for employment and offer one to one counselling and can help work with the employers. Annual diversity conferences are held to engage diverse work groups.

Michael Clague

- Former Director of Carnegie
- BCS
- Arts

Stephanie Warren

- Program director Open Door Group Vancouver (112 W Hastings)
- WorkBC Employment services contracts
- Health Leisure program for mental health consumers

Stephen Bouchard

- Strathcona mental health team

Peter Wrinch

- Director Pivot law
- Policing, housing, child sex worker

Carolyn Wong

- Pivot, Hope in Shadows

Hendrik Hoekema

- Executive Director of VEEES (Vancouver Eastside Educational Enrichment Society)
- Has operated employment programs in the DTES and Grandview Woodlands

Andrea Smith

- Project Ministry CCPA
- Research/Think tank - Environment, Social, Economic

Sherri White

- DTES resident
- Works with Salvation Army
- Long term supportive housing
- Support Spirit Buildings

Kate Gibson

- WISH foundation, drop-in centre for women sex trade workers
- How will plan address violence against women and women's needs & housing
- Ensure co-ed services provides support and fund women's services

Stephen Gray

- Acting director of First United Church
- Housing, Shelter Services
- Church is looking to redeveloped site and they looking to see that the future neighbourhood plans

Zoe Paterson

- First United Church
- Communications Fund Development

2. MAPPING EXERCISE

BLUE DOTS: ASSETS:

- Raycam Community Centre: provides social services and recreation to single moms and seniors. Three childcare centres, with child play place based strategy.
- 877? Hastings, middle school, reboot, cedar school, and other services
- Dental clinic: free and accessible
- Strathcona Community Centre offers school and daycare and food security programs. Neighbourhood of learning within the school and out into the community. Recreation centre can play various sports at no costs
- Oppenhiemer Park; great staff, problems in the past was due to drug use. Staffs have helped to clean this up working directly with drug dealers. Public meetings were held...contact with the neighbourhood with families, kids...lack of living space, a park is a place to gather.
- Alexandra Street - Downtown Housing Centre - first full service centre to work with people to find homes, and deal with the issues that keep them homeless...harm reduction is key.
- WISH: women working the streets are at high risk and face rejection, but they feel accepted here.
- Sunrise Market, low barrier low prices, 7 days a week open, sells fresh produce; and organic and veggie foods. Employment opportunity for local and will deliver foods
- First United Church: Big A advocacy, support community development, e.g., shopping cart storage. Various existing community groups and organizations started up at this location.
- Learning Centre
- Carnegie Community Centre
- IA Office
- Women's Centre
- Gallery Gachet
- W2
- Open Door
- Pivot
- Community Centres - RayCam, Strathcona, Carnegie
- Green spaces - all the parks as well as all the community gardens (Oppenheimer Park, Crabbe Park, McLean Park, gardens run by service providers, SoleFood farm near Astoria and the one next to Potluck, Mission Possible, PHS)
- Insite
- UGM
- Grace Mansions
- Heatley House
- Daycare at Cordova and Jackson
- Neighbourhood House corner of Jackson and Princess
- First United
- Quest Food
- WISH

- Army and Navy
- Portland Hotel
- Pennsylvania Hotel
- Housing Co-ops
- Jackson and Pender CHC
- Vancouver Native Health
- Lore Krill (2 locations)
- Crabtree
- Kiwassa & Waterfront Income Assistance Offices - Provide income assistance and supplementary benefits to people without a source of income, approximately 70% are people with disabilities. Income assistance provides people with necessary supports for food and shelter
- YMCA
- VANDU
- Aboriginal
- 4 Directions (390 Main)
- WorkBC
- Save-on-Meat (controversial blue dot)
- Woodward (controversial blue dot)
- Megaphone, United We Can, Mission Possible - enterprises that employ local people
- www.dtes.ca

RED DOTS: MISSING/GAP

- Red fox's funding has been cut, we need this service back for youth
- Old Buddhist temple: could be removed due to age
- Green grocers and grocery stores - affordable (i.e. No Frills)
- Affordable business and services (haircuts, and basic life, restaurants)
- Businesses that are open late (coffee shop)
- Health services that are open late
- Cultural spaces
- Movie theatre
- Adequate supportive housing
- Adequate shelters stable
- Pathways where people can transition (housing choice and detox choice)
- Realistic zoning policy, zoning to fit community needs and not bureaucratic needs
- Housing in the DTES so that individuals can be close to their supports and family
- Health contact centre

YELLOW DOTS: AT RISK - UNDER THREAT

- Building is aging and in need of repairs, Street nurses use the centre daily to help homeless (service lost in Feb, and now we must screen)
- First United Church: Funding issue is limited, staffing model needs to be review, and young people getting lost inside the building and are at risk of harm from other users.
- Dominion building, lease under negotiation, building houses many non-profits raise in rents
- Office space for non-profits
- SROs as a housing option
- Older social housing building with the expiration of operating agreements
- Affordable spaces for business in general, affordable businesses where low-income individuals

feel comfortable

- Public spaces
- Intangible
- Affordable housing that have shared spaces (co-living)
- Mobile services when they park in front of businesses
- Safety of individuals, presence of police increase the feeling of unsafe (increase of private security personnel)
- Every property should have some form of activity (i.e. VCH has been holding land for long time with no activity Hastings and Core and northeast corner) - zoning or by-law issue?

3. KEY ISSUES FROM THE PROCESS

- Gentrification
- Affordable housing
- Quality/adequate housing instead of tinier and tinier cubicles
- Housing that allows people to age in place
- Exit strategies. Other communities to send people to that have appropriate housing throughout the City of Vancouver
- Poverty. Plan can't solve poverty issues. Way more than just the city that has to talk about the housing issues
- Buildings need a lot of renovations. Aging social housing. Condition and maintenance issues
- Colonialism
- Safety. Personal safety. Welfare week is a hard week for residents. There are parties and its grand central. Community safety too
- Access to treatment. Whole host of treatments. Home support. People that can help with life skills too not just medical
- Inadequate funding to be able to provide the appropriate services
- Lack of local employment and employment equity. Money leaks out of the community.
- Lack of dental care
- Perception of the DTES and how the rest of the city views the DTES
- Nothing in the community for at-risk youth. Nothing open 24/7
- Lack of empowerment
- Security not doing its job and deliberately harassing people
- Number of inmates being released into the community
- Large senior population
- Women, children and elder perspectives not included
- Lack of coordinated advocacy for low-income, child welfare, housing
- Massive transit zipping down the street
- No community disaster plan for the neighbourhood that deals with medication, methadone, food water etc.
- many of issues and ideas have been talked about over the years but has not gone anywhere

4. CHALLENGES FROM THE PROCESS

- City is negligent when it comes to housing. Who they fund and what they fund is wrong. Bylaw process bad for projects to go ahead. Bias towards their own ownership and barely grant to other projects

- Policy prevents people from accessing treatment and services. Policy prevents people from getting home support (for seniors especially)
- Knowing where to go for services, what their rights are, what's out there to support people. Often only word of mouth which is difficult
- Too many gatekeepers working in silos. Competitive, segregated strategies
- Movement to push towards a cookie-cutter approach because it is more economical
- No MCFD office in the community and no translation
- When the plan is developed, who will oversee the plan and ensure that it is being implemented as intended?
- how do we support people with mental health illnesses people in general tend to rise up in the presence of children and role of elders as opposed to presence of police, allowing the same people to take on other roles to bring out heterogeneity and the variety - psychosis is a transient state, support people to be well, we're keeping people psychotic with our policies
- At Home/Chez Soi, impact of the end of funding on the 200 people
- There are few chances of people to leave are for a day, it's a challenge for them to leave an area that they're familiar with, need more opportunities to bring people outside of neighbourhood
- Is there historical research/context to build on and success of past?
- There are things that are valuable in this community that have no monetary value, challenge to place these community value above economics, and development
- Money is an issue, what resources does the City have make change?
- If city is looking at mixed developments models (Woodwards) is it an experiment? What are the impacts? Is there social cleansing happening?
- Literature supports mixed developments not just economic diversity but mix/balance of community heart John McKnight (asset based community)
- Mix of backgrounds needed in housing developments, 14 sites have too many people of too similar of a background
- Public realm critical to sense of community (live in poor housing so sidewalks places to live life, socialise in the community)
- Many plans have been made for the area, how does it get implemented?
- Need to setup a monitoring system, more important that creating the plan.

5. OPPORTUNITIES FROM THE PROCESS

- The committee and city can make a statement about housing problem to other levels of government
- Change policy regarding home support
- Opportunity for partnerships and to work together to get
- Get service providers to have greater integration and to work together more
- Place-based strategies that recognize strengths in each community
- More outreach
- More things opened at night (in the dark) that are women and children-friendly, extended hours
- Decentralizing how inmates are being released. Need options outside of the DTES so the only services aren't down here
- Partnerships with small businesses that are open at night to give information and act as information kiosks to give info to people arriving. Get bias involved. 'safe haven' type program

- Improvement in the relationship between the police and the community through community policing/street cops/beat cops
- Bike lanes, walk lanes, better ways of dealing with the traffic
- Recreation, pools
- Better signage for people (ie parking, information more accessible)
- Free transportation to and from emergency appointments
- Neighbourhood is shifting without intention, plan can create a shift with intention
- Creating a safe and affordable community (seniors, immigrants, single mothers) heterogeneity is being lost, need to keep affordability at a human scale not just at a building economic scale, define heterogeneity differently
- Children not enough resources for people with children or resources for people to stay in the neighbourhood with children
- In transportation it's practice to buy the surrounding land to capture the increase in value. is there something done for housing to capture the value of the developments
- Name and recognize significant aboriginal population
- Procurement to employ local people, this was done during the Olympics needs to continue on this has now changed. like to see local procurement and local employment - need more income not just housing
- Look at evidence based examples for community; Council has a priority for density throughout City. High density model may not be the best for this neighbourhood.