



**Temporary Modular Housing | Sarah Ross House  
Community Advisory Committee (CAC) Meeting Notes**

**February 21, 2019, 5:30 to 6:10 pm | Slocan Park House**

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

- a) The Facilitator welcomed the group and led a round of introductions.

**2. Review Action Items**

- a) **Action Item from November Meeting:** Sarah Ross House and the City will find out who is responsible for maintaining the path between 29<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Kaslo Street. The City will follow up about lighting.
- **Comment from Atira:** The Project Manager from Vancouver Affordable Housing Agency came to visit the Building Manager at Sarah Ross House to assess the tripping hazard on the gravel pathway and recommend options for repair.
  - **Status Update from City of Vancouver:** The pathway is repaired. There is more gravel covering and it is no longer a tripping hazard. There was an issue with the underlay.
  - **Addendum from City of Vancouver:** If residents have ongoing concerns about the street lighting around the building in the 4400 block of Kaslo, they are encouraged to call **3-1-1** and quote ticket **#10495821** to report concerns with low levels of light.

**3. Updates and Discussion**

**a) BC Housing**

- No updates.

**b) Atira Women's Resource Society**

- Atira reported two concerns from neighbours:

- A neighbour reported what they perceived to be a tenant with a gun in their room. This neighbour and the Sarah Ross House Building Manager made a report to the police. The police visited the building and confirmed that it was a toy gun and spoke with the tenant.
- The same neighbour said they had some belongings stolen from their backyard, including snowboarding equipment. Sarah Ross House staff reviewed the footage from the cameras over an extended period of time when the equipment was noticed to be missing. No evidence of any snowboarding equipment being brought into the building was found.
- Atira reported that a neighbour was found placing their garbage in the large outside garbage bin belonging to the Sarah Ross House. Site staff advised the neighbour that the bin is private property belonging to Sarah Ross House only and helped the neighbour to remove their garbage and take it back to their own property.

### c) City of Vancouver

- There was an inquiry about the relocation of the Still Creek Community Garden. It is anticipated to be completed by April 15<sup>th</sup>. The City of Vancouver CAC representative is able to share the Vancouver Park Board contact info for anyone who has questions and can send it to anyone who is interested. The Still Creek Community Garden is being relocated to the other side of tennis courts in Slocan Park.
- The lack of lighting near the building is an issue and the site is very dark. The City of Vancouver representative has put in a request with 3-1-1 to improve lighting around the site. If anyone has concerns, it would be most effective to call in and reference ticket **#10495821** to report low light and get that on the radar of Engineering. North of the building, on Kaslo near the cul-de-sac, the pathway is lit but the sidewalk is not. The City of Vancouver is speaking to BC Housing about adding the lighting that shines from the building around the area.
  - **Comment from Atira:** The only lights are from the inside of the building.
  - **Question from Community Member:** Are we looking at lighting in the back alley at all?
  - **Response from City of Vancouver:** What we are exploring with BC Housing is adding lighting to the outside of the building to bolster and improve lighting around the building. In terms of regular streetlights, residents should request additional lighting by calling 3-1-1.
- Regarding the ravine garbage can on the 2900 block of East 27<sup>th</sup> Avenue, the City of Vancouver has received a ticket from 3-1-1 (**#12555613**). Residents

who have concerns or requests regarding this garbage can are encouraged to call 3-1-1 and quote this ticket.

- There have been no calls to 3-1-1 in regard to the building.

**d) Vancouver Coastal Health**

- The Vancouver Coastal Health representative was absent.

**e) Vancouver Police Department**

- In last meeting, the VPD representative had emphasized they are pleased with the management of the site. Regarding statistics, a VPD analyst went through calls for service from the period of January 13<sup>th</sup> to February 9<sup>th</sup>. There were a total of 8 calls for service and these calls include health-related calls as well as police issues. The incident that the Sarah Ross House Building Manager was referring to was not of great concern. The incident was handled well and was not anything threatening. The object turned out to be a pellet gun. The VPD was there to assist the general public based on a concerned citizen's observation.
- **Question from City of Vancouver:** Can you tell us what calls for service mean?
  - **Response from Vancouver Police Department:** We get about 1000 calls for service a day and up to 300,000 in a year. When you have 8 calls for service to one location in a ~~month, that~~ month, which is not a lot. There was a missing person call from Sarah Ross House staff. There was a suspicious person call about a person looking into a vehicle. There were emergency medical calls.
  - **Comment from City of Vancouver:** The nature of the calls that get captured includes calls from Atira.
  - **Comment from the Facilitator:** Or emergency services such as ambulances. That is an important contextual piece.
  - **Comment from Vancouver Police Department:** Two calls for service were for an ambulance. One staff member called about an unwanted person in the building. There were no thefts or assault in progress. Calls to the building or general area are no different when compared to other areas of Vancouver.
- **Question from Community Member:** Has there been any canvassing of stats in area? Have calls increased or decreased?
  - **Response from Vancouver Police Department:** I do not know, I will forward this question to my colleague who is the regular VPD

representative on this committee. There are a couple of houses of concern in the area.

- **Question from Community Member:** Have calls increased, decreased?
- **Response from Vancouver Police Department:** My understanding is there has not been an increase. We meet every Wednesday for crime meetings. We go through the districts and hotspots. Slocan and Kingsway is an area of concern.
- **Comment from City of Vancouver:** This is consistent with what we have heard with other projects.

**f) Renfrew Community Centre**

- The Renfrew Community Centre representative was absent.

**g) Collingwood Neighbourhood House**

- Collingwood Neighbourhood House has a Homeless Outreach Program, which includes an outreach line staffed 3 or 4 days a week. This program refers potential tenants to TMH.
- Collingwood Neighbourhood House hosted an event through Renfrew-Collingwood Community Response Network. The focus of this network is to prevent abuse and neglect toward seniors and adults. The event was a high tea to talk about homelessness. Collingwood Neighbourhood House really wanted to connect with people and did a bit of outreach. A lot of people from different sites attended the event. Free transportation and free food were offered. There were no attendees from Sarah Ross House.
  - **Response from Atira:** We promoted the event, and appreciated the nice poster. Our seniors are either really independent or prefer to stay close to home. We tried to push the event and encourage people to go but they politely declined. They are not precariously housed anymore, they are housed and have meals provided on site. They are quite a community within the building. They are friends, watch game shows together, go to each other's rooms to do cooking. The community within building is so strong, they may not be looking to socialize elsewhere at the moment.
  - **Comment from Collingwood Neighbourhood House:** If there is anyone who could benefit from our programming, let us know. Maybe we could do a program in the building.
  - **Response from Atira:** We can talk about that. The Still Moon Arts event was really successful. It depends on each individual circumstance.

- **Question from City of Vancouver (to Atira):** Could you go back to tenants and see what the response is?
- **Comment from Atira:** Sometimes tenants feel like they are being looked at or gawked at during events.
- **Suggestion from City of Vancouver:** Could you approach the tenants and ask what kinds of activities they might be interested in?
- **Comment from Collingwood Neighbourhood House:** That integration piece is really what we are looking for.
- **Comment from Atira:** That is what I want to see too. We have taken a few groups down to the community centre and they really liked it. A lot of tenants like to play Bingo.

#### **h) Community Members**

- **Comment from Community Member:** There is good news in the shape of no news. Before this meeting, I send out a notice and let people know to give me feedback. I heard nothing from 20 households. On the 28<sup>th</sup> Avenue stretch we do not notice anything unusual. You guys are doing great.
- **Comment from Community Member:** I sent out a message to my contacts, too to find out if there were any concerns to report or inquire about. For the most part there has not been anything of concern. I do hear about things as they occur. It says a lot about great management, people appreciate that. They really liked the open house, really enjoyed meeting people and putting a face to the tenants. It was a great event and we should explore something like that. I did get an email from a neighbor on Allan Street. She was concerned about drug dealing. She has seen the same car and the same person repeatedly. She knows that this person comes out of Sarah Ross House.
  - **Response from Atira:** I can speak to that. He is not a drug dealer. He was a guest. He would come and visit quite often. He is no longer welcome in the building.
  - **Comment from Vancouver Police Department:** If neighbours are seeing what they perceive to be drug activity, we just need a correct license plate. We are not asking people to put their necks out and put themselves in jeopardy, but ~~if~~ if they can see the license plate from the window and not put themselves in danger, let the office know or call the non-emergency line. As long as the license plate is correct, we can look into it. I used to work in this area 15, 16 years ago. It is a lot better now compared to back then. This area used to be a hotbed of crime.

- **Comment from City of Vancouver:** Let's also respect the tenants of the building and their privacy.
- **Question from Community Member:** There is some graffiti on the fence. My wife had great suggestion: could we get funding together to do a mural? It could keep graffiti down and make the neighbourhood nice.
  - **Response from Atira:** Somebody brought that amazing idea to me and my boss and we are interested. We are exploring a garden mural party and block party.
  - **Question from Collingwood Neighbourhood House:** Are there community grants available?
  - **Response from City of Vancouver:** There are a couple of different grants. Homelessness Action Week (HAW) grants come out at the end of April. TMH-specific HAW grants were staggered across the year to coincide with TMH openings and will now be part of the regular HAW grant cycle. There are also Neighbourhood Small Grants and funding for murals through the Integrated Graffiti Management Program.
  - **Comment from Atira:** We had a successful Christmas dinner. We would love to see the staff have an opportunity to bring their children in again to work with tenants.
- g) Facilitator concluded the meeting at 6:10 pm. The next two meetings will be set for the end of April and the end of June.

**Note:** A community member asked whether the Sarah Ross House CAC would be dissolved in February 2019. The City of Vancouver representative clarified that the committee would decide whether to continue with meetings in February 2019, as per the Terms of Reference. It was recommended by the City of Vancouver that the Sarah Ross House CAC continue to meet for an additional 6 months, and then re-evaluate.

#### 4. Action Items and Next Steps

Action Items
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lighting around the building:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The City of Vancouver will continue to work with BC Housing on the possibility of incorporating increased lighting into the outside of the building.</li> <li>○ Residents are encouraged to call 3-1-1 and quote ticket <b>#10495821</b> to report concerns about low light in the area.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Garbage bin at the entrance to the ravine on the 2900 block of 27<sup>th</sup> Avenue:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Residents are encouraged to call 3-1-1 and quote ticket <b>#12555613</b> to report concerns or make requests regarding this garbage bin.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>