

**Temporary Modular Housing
Sarah Ross House
Community Advisory Committee Meeting Notes**

June 25, 2019, 5:00 to 6:00 pm | Renfrew Park Community Centre

1. Welcome and Introductions

- a) The facilitator welcomed the group and noted that this will be the last meeting before the summer break.

2. Review of Action Items from Previous Meeting

Action Items	Responsible	Status
1. None	N/A	N/A

3. Updates and Discussion

a) Atira Women's Resource Society

- There has only been one issue. There was a "Do Not Enter" sign on a door and a tenant broke in and entered. He was evicted. No other incidents have occurred.
- We are thinking about doing a one-year anniversary celebration. Maybe a BBQ and some bigger art projects like a mural.

- **Comment from Community Member:** Is Sarah Ross House at full capacity?

- **Response from Atira:** There is currently one vacancy at the moment.

Question from Community Member: Do you maintain the property beside Sarah Ross House?

- **Response from Atira:** We've started to, just within the last four weeks. I don't believe it's our property. It's the City's property, but we just want to keep things looking nice, so we take care of it.

b) BC Housing:

- Not present

c) City of Vancouver:

- There have been no calls to 311. In fact, there have actually been fewer calls to 311 about the property since it opened. There were more calls about the site when it was a vacant lot.
- The garden has opened and there was a community celebration on Saturday.
- Lighting has been added to the building. It was BC Housing that did end up installing it. There were a few glitches but it will provide a bit more street lighting, and it shines onto the path.
 - **Comment from Community Member:** I went to see the garden and it's great. They have irrigation. It was fantastic to see that come to fruition. Now it's a more permanent area and it's a very nice layout. People are happy.

d) Vancouver Coastal Health:

- Not present.

e) Vancouver Police Department:

- Nothing too concerning. From May 1 to June 25 there were 20 calls for service. There was one incident with bear spray outside the building, but the people involved in the incident were cooperative, and it was resolved.
- Just a reminder that calls for service aren't always a bad thing. There's been nothing concerning other than that one incident.
- There are apparently people using drugs in the area, but there's nothing to tie it to Sarah Ross House. We'll keep an eye on it.
 - **Comment from Community Member:** Those numbers seem in line with everything else.
 - **Comment from Community Member:** Are people still using drugs in the park nearby?
 - **Response from VPD:** No. I looked at the park specifically and there have been three calls, but nothing to do with drugs or anything related to Sarah Ross House. Mostly just related to the Skytrain station. Nothing of concern has been reported to us.
 - **Comment from Community Member:** Is it helpful having the garden operating there to prevent drug use?

- **Response from VPD:** Probably. With the weather more people will be using the park.
 - **Comment from Community Member:** Any uptake in the number of car break-ins?
 - **Response from VPD:** There have been a few, but nothing much in the area. A few were reported but more west of Nanaimo towards Trout Lake.
 - **Comment from Community Member:** My neighbour's car was broken into and he had video. Did you receive that?
 - **Response from VPD:** The officer who was assigned to that and dealt with that would have seen it.

f) Renfrew Community Centre:

- We have set up a leisure access program, so residents of Sarah Ross can easily obtain discounts on our programs if they come to the community centre and reference their home address. It's a different discount for different programs, but it's 25-50% off programming.
- We had a tour with residents, but it was under-attended. We can set up another tour and if you want more info we can get it to you (*referring to Atira*) or get our programming person in touch.
 - **Comment from Atira:** That would be great.

g) Collingwood Neighbourhood House:

- We have a homelessness program at the Collingwood Neighbourhood House and we have a homeless man living outside. Our homelessness coordinator has been working to connect him to services. We've been in contact with Sarah Ross House to try and get him housed.
- Collingwood Neighbourhood House is in the process of starting a community health centre. Ministry of Health is doing a massive re-organization and are looking at community run and governed health centres. Collingwood Neighbourhood House is looking at doing a prototype, The model will be based on social determinants of health. There could be social prescriptions where the clinician prescribes going to a community lunch to make a friend. We did engagement sessions last fall to find the priority populations, and we identified those with low incomes, youth with barriers, seniors with barriers, sex workers, members of the LGBTQ2+ community, etc. If all these people need help, we're looking at hubs, taking a part of Evergreen Community Centre on the main floor, and then outreach in the neighbourhood. Is this something that would be of interest to Sarah Ross House? To have a doctor or

nurse practitioner come out to provide healthcare on site and pull people into the healthcare system?

- **Comment from Atira:** Yes, absolutely. If it was on people's doorstep and easily accessible, that would be great.
- **Comment from Collingwood Neighbourhood House:** Is there a multipurpose room available at Sarah Ross House?
 - **Response from Atira:** Yes.
- We're looking at opening outreach first, and we're also renovating a room on the main floor. We'll start offering services there. Vancouver Coastal Health is moving to margins on first and second floor, so we can get in there maybe in November or December.
 - **Comment from Community Member:** Would you be coordinating with Sarah Ross House?
 - **Answer from Collingwood Neighbourhood House:** We'd have to figure out what kind of care is happening so far and what would work.
 - **Comment from City of Vancouver:** Outreach based programs?
 - **Answer from Collingwood Neighbourhood House:** Yes. Some could come there, we'd have physiotherapists, occupational therapists, access to translation, a multipurpose room so we can offer complimentary programming on site. It'll be more robust care on site, but we want to get out and do the outreach to make connections and relationships. Then people will be more likely to get care.

h) Community Members:

- Not much heard from community members, everything is great, and I have not noted anything in my vicinity. No major incidents that I know of, just the usual stuff that happens living near a Skytrain. We appreciate that the building operation is going smoothly.
- I live on the other side of the building near 28th. A couple of neighbours found people sleeping in their backyard, so they called the police. I don't know if they were tied to Sarah Ross House. As a direct result, the neighbours on my block have submitted a request for lighting in our back lane, City of Vancouver ticket number: 1463960 and engineering already replied to them, so the discussion is ongoing.

Support and approval for the back lane improvement is through a petition of neighbours and resident support and funding is split between the City and residents.

Neighbours believe the people sleeping in the backyard are directly related to the Temporary Modular Housing at the end of the street and therefore would like to see the City cover more of the funding. City Engineering staff have also indicated that there will also be more lighting on Kaslo St, as per requests for increased lighting on this street by residents.

i) Additional Comments:

- **City of Vancouver:** It's great to hear that after a year from when the building opened, it's going relatively well.
- **Community Member:** Quite a few neighbours went to the Sarah Ross open house BBQ last time and it was really nice.
- **Community Member:** Do you know what the turnover rate is at Sarah Ross House?
 - **Response from Atira:** I think it's less than five. Not a very big turnover.

Action Items	Responsible
Break for the summer, reconvene in September. Hold future meetings at 5pm.	City of Vancouver/ATIRA
Think about quarterly meetings. This will be discussed at the next meeting.	All

Facilitator: Everyone have a great summer. See you in September.