

Larwill Place Community Advisory Committee

Jan 15, 2019

5:30pm-6:30pm

Peter McKay Room, Vancouver Public Library

Attendees:

Position
Community Member (1)
British Columbia Regiment
Vancouver Public Library
Downtown Vancouver Business Improvement Association
Vancouver Police
City of Vancouver
BC Housing
Vancouver Coastal Health
MPA Society
Guest – Hogan’s Alley Society

Regrets: two Community Members, VCC

Minutes

- 1) Welcome and Introductions
- 2) Review action items from previous meeting:
 - a) **MPA to coordinate with VCC, VPL, and Community Members for Xmas hampers and other donations** Tour dates for CAC members: invites were sent out for media event/open house – *Completed*. FYI for anyone interested in collecting donations, MPA is still in need of men’s clothing, women’s donations are sufficient at this time. No large items needed. Call building front desk (604-558-7600) to confirm need, and to arrange drop off.
 - b) **Arrange for date of community engagement at QE theatre for Larwill residents** – *Completed*. Event was very successful, tenants were invited to dress rehearsal, personal backstage tour, catered food, and virtual reality demo. Many thanks to QE theatre and the Electric Company, also to the City of Vancouver for the Homelessness Action Week Grant that supported the event.
- 3) Partner Updates:
 - a) MPA: Holiday season was busy, tenanting process on going, approximately 75 residents move in. donations were given to tenants and we were able to make it very welcoming to everyone who had moved in. Operations are going very successfully. Most calls received are from people asking how they can live in the building. One neighbour called regarding a noise complaint,

however they called the day after and therefore MPA was unable to identify the source or address the complaint. MPA asks that any building-related issues are called in immediately to the building so that they can be addressed: 604-558-7600.

- b) There continues to be a challenge with people (non-residents) cutting across the property after sporting events, urinating on the property and appearing intoxicated.
 - c) BC Housing: Was at a downtown shelter and was made aware that some people from there had moved into modular, the flow is happening.
 - d) Site/operator 24/7 contact information is available on the City's website for each modular building that is open. The number for Larwill place is 604-558-7600.
www.vancouver.ca/temporarymodularhousing
 - e) Heather Lands modular site opened 2 buildings last week, celebrated with a ceremonial blessing. Priority for the building is Indigenous people. Overall program is approaching 500 units of completion. 265 West 1st in Olympic Village to open in January. 258 Union St is currently under construction with expected completion at the end of February. This building will be operated by PHS Housing in partnership with Hogan's Alley Society and tenancing priority will be for racially marginalized persons who are homeless in the local community.
 - f) VCH Update- Continuing to partner with MPA and supporting the client's health connections.
 - g) VPD Update- Have been around the complex occasionally. Overall very quiet, lots of interest in the sign which explains the building. Aly Smith from Homeless outreach is transferring out of the program and VPD will be seeking to replace her.
 - h) VCC Update- Regrets
 - i) VPL Update - Some historic images of Vancouver have been located in the archives that we may be able to put up in the building.
 - j) DV BIA: Lots of emails related to homelessness challenges in the downtown core. Have been educating people about modular housing. People have noticed folks moving on and hearing success stories. City has provided a 1-page resource on how to interact with people who may appear to be dealing with homelessness.
 - k) BCR - Has disseminated points about problems with cutting through the property to BCR Troops, they will not be cutting through.
 - l) Community member updates - Community member has been doing lots of work to gather donations for the building. Using her role to provide people positive information about the site. Many people donating are asking what more can they do, community member is maintaining a database of people who can volunteer more and help the project. In the future MPA will be developing in-house programming, will see what is needed and let CAC members know about any future opportunities.
- 4) New Items:
- a) Meeting Frequency: Discussion around modifying the frequency of the meetings from monthly to bi-monthly with the caveat that meetings can be called if an issue needs to be discussed. No objections by those in attendance. Next meeting will take place in March, MPA to communicate tentative date to CAC members in mid-February.

Questions

BCH

Q: When does the development sign come down?

Will check with developer VAHA and BC Housing, but it could probably come down now. It is currently providing information to curious pedestrians, but it's likely time to bring it down. City of Vancouver may want to put up a modular housing sign to explain the structure, but current signage referring to housing for homelessness could result in stigma for tenant.

COV will follow up about removing sign.

Q: What is the nature of the visits to the site by VPD referenced during updates? And where is this reported?

A: Plain-clothed VPD liaison has attended site to observe operations to watch interactions between building and community. Building has been quiet and no issues highlighted, good relationship with operator, nothing further to report. It does not get reported.

Action Items

Item	Agency Responsible
MPA to follow with CAC members by Feb 15 th to schedule March meeting.	MPA
Enquire about removing Development signage	CoV

Next Meeting

March – Day to be confirmed.