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Sarah Ross House  
Community Advisory Committee  
Monday November 19, 2018  
17:30-18:30

## **In Attendance**

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- Vancouver Coastal Health: Roy Ang
- City of Vancouver: Liza Jimenez and Mary Ellen Glover
- BC Housing: Maria Rodrigo
- Atira: Niki Antonopoulou, Kevin Easton, Kim Corbett and note taker Vancouver Police Department: Partap Sahota and Mike Griffin
- Renfrew Senior Society rep: Cassandra Ly
- Collingwood Neighbourhood House rep: Jennifer Gray Grant
- 3 Community Members attended the meeting

## **Review of Previous Action Items**

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1. In regards to the missing garbage can from the ravine, City staff are following up with the Park Board staff about replacing the bin.
2. The vacant lot beside Sarah Ross House (SRH) is the property of the City and is a part of the SRH licence area; the area was left vacant intentionally.
3. The park bathrooms are cleaned by a company that is contracted by the Park Board. Park Board has made the company aware that the more frequent cleanings of these bathrooms is necessary and not only when a call is made to complain.
4. A community garden is open behind SRH on Atlin and 29<sup>th</sup> Ave, this site is privately owned. UPDATE: This is not the replacement community garden from the TMH site, which is expected for the area next to the tennis courts within Slocan Park.

## **Updates and Discussion**

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### Atira

- On Thursday November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018 SRH held an open house for community members and partnering agencies. This event was a great success; 30-40 community members

attended, enjoyed some food and got to see what SRH is all about. Tenants, community members, partnering agency staff and Atira staff had a great time meeting and getting to know one each another.

- Atira informed the committee about an incident involving a former tenant. Approximately one month ago a phone call was made to the VPD non-emergency line about a break in where the chairs from a local apartment building lobby were stolen. SRH staff followed up immediately with the owner and the VPD and the chairs were returned. The Tenant has ended his tenancy at the building and is not expected to return to the building.

### Vancouver Police

- The VPD has been pleased with everything so far with SRH being in the community, noting that the aforementioned theft being the only issue.

Community members in attendance also requested the 911/non-emergency call statistics for the area in recent months. VPD did not have those records with them,

### **Collingwood Neighbourhood House (CNH)**

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- Collingwood Neighbourhood House located at 5288 Joyce St offers a community breakfast program. Available to all who are homeless or precariously housed; tenants of SRH are also welcome.
- CNH has an outreach program for seniors on January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2019 from 3-5pm at the CNH Annex at 3690 Vaness Ave. Tea will be served and there will be information on programs for seniors.
- Is working with the Ministry on a new pilot project to open a community health centre in the Collingwood area. The centre will be similar to REACH Community Health Centre on Commercial drive. The project will see 20 community health centres open across BC.

### **Community Members**

- Informed the committee of an email chain where there were several people who expressed deep concern about the possibility of SRH being used as a safe injection site, as discussed at last meeting. However, reports from the group have been positive since Atira confirmed that there will not be a safe injection site at Sarah Ross House. Only tenants of Sarah Ross House will have access to services at Sarah Ross House, including a safe using area to prevent overdoses.
- Expressed pleasure with the SRH open house, they enjoyed meeting and dining with tenants and staff alike.
- The Community Members would like the following answered/ addressed:

- Who is responsible for the gravel path between 29<sup>th</sup> Ave and Kaslo St.
- The lack of street lights along Kaslo in front of SRH
- The parking at the base of the cul-de-sac, this area allows emergency vehicles to turn around and no one should be parking there.

### **Renfrew Senior Society**

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The Society offers groups for seniors every Tuesday and Saturday afternoons where they can socialize, get support, information on programs and assistance, exercise and activity programs as well.

### **Action Items**

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- SRH and the City will find out who is to maintain the path between 29<sup>th</sup> Ave and Kaslo St.
- City will follow up about lighting.