



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

**Tuesday, January 21, 2020
Renfrew Community Centre
5:00 – 5:30 pm**

1. Welcome and Introductions

- The Facilitator welcomed CAC members and proceeded with the meeting agenda.

2. Action Items from Previous Meetings

- **Action item from previous meeting:** The City of Vancouver will circulate to CAC members a “Who to call for what” list of contact numbers for the City of Vancouver, Vancouver Police department and the building.
 - **Status of action item:** In December, the City of Vancouver CAC representative circulated an information sheet containing this list to CAC members via email. The City representative distributed hard copies of the information sheet to the meeting as requested. A community member commented that the information sheet was well received by neighbourhood residents and is a good resource.

3. Updates

a. Atira Women's Resource Society

- The Atira CAC representative reported that:
 - Plans are in place to improve the lighting in the back alley of Sarah Ross House. The Building Manager has been in touch with contractors to prepare for lighting installation.

- A new health outreach program is underway at Sarah Ross House. A team from RISE Community Health Centre, consisting of one nurse practitioner and one community health worker, comes to Sarah Ross House once a week for confidential visits with tenants. The outreach team connects tenants with community resources and other health care services. The program has been in place for two weeks so far and has been well received by tenants.
- Collingwood Neighbourhood House (CNH) has been offering translation services, yoga classes and shuttle services for tenants. A program to connect tenants with Quest Food Exchange is being developed by CNH.
- The Vancouver Park Board's Neighbourhood Matching Fund has awarded \$10,000 for the creation of a mural near Sarah Ross House, in partnership with Still Moon Arts Society. As part of this project, a community event for tenants and neighbours is being planned for Summer 2020.
 - In response to a question about where the mural would be located, Atira stated that it would be on the fence near the back alley.
 - In response to a question about the process for participation in this community mural initiative, Atira stated that they will be reaching out to neighbours closer to the date of the event.
- In response to a question about whether there have been any changes in tenants at Sarah Ross House, Atira stated that the building has two new tenants, both of whom are from the local community.
- In response to a question about whether there is a youth quota at Sarah Ross House and whether there are designated youth rooms, Atira stated that there are no rooms designated specifically for youth, meaning a person under the age of 24 years. This housing is for people who are 19 years or older.

b. City of Vancouver

- The City of Vancouver CAC representative reported that:
 - There have not been many calls to 311 from neighbourhood residents.
 - The City representative has been in touch with local resident with regard to a parking issue in front of Sarah Ross building.
 - The City representative spoke to Engineering Services in regard to a question about speed bumps that was raised at the last CAC meeting. Engineering reported that they had already been in contact with a person from the

community about a Local Improvements Program petition to fix the speed bumps.

- A community member responded that they have not heard anything about community efforts to improve the speed bumps. The community member will connect with the City to determine what the status is.
- In response to a request for an update about the approved TMH site on 3598 Copley Street, the City responded that building construction is underway and expected to be completed in mid-March. The Facilitator confirmed that Community Builders will be the building operator and that the building will have its own CAC.

c. Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH)

- The Vancouver Coastal Health CAC representative reported that home care nursing and other services are offered on site at TMH locations across the city.
 - Atira added that a nurse from Pacific Medical Outreach team has visited tenants at Sarah Ross House in addition to the health care team from RISE.
- VCH inquired as to whether anyone in Sarah Ross House has physical disabilities and in need of equipment such as wheelchairs. Atira responded that VCH is assisting tenants in need.

d. Vancouver Police Department (VPD)

- The VPD CAC representative reported that:
 - There were quite a few calls to the building because of a visitor that was creating problems. This issue has been resolved.
 - The VPD received some emails from neighbourhood residents about needles on the ground requiring pickup.
 - The VPD received a few complaints about problems in the area that are not linked to Sarah Ross House.
 - The number of calls to the area is normal and not a cause for concern.

e. Renfrew Community Centre

- The Renfrew Community Centre CAC representative reported that everything is going well on their end regarding Sarah Ross House.

- Atira added that Sarah Ross House is considering setting up a swimming program for tenants at Renfrew Community Centre. Many tenants inquire about recreational activities, but it can be challenging to get people from one location to another.

f. Collingwood Neighbourhood House (CNH)

- The CNH CAC representative reported that:
 - Staff from RISE Community Health Centre, which operates out of CNH, have been visiting Sarah Ross House once a week to deliver a health clinic for tenants. RISE staff can help people navigate the health care system, with priority given to clients who are not currently attached to a family doctor or walk-in clinic.
 - Wellness programming for Sarah Ross House tenants has been made possible through CNH's funding for seniors.
 - CNH is offering first-language support to Sarah Ross House residents as needed, and is actively providing language services.
 - In the future, CNH is planning to run a shuttle service to Quest Food Exchange that aligns with income assistance cheque day.

g. Community Members

- A Community Member reported that:
 - They have let neighbours know to inform them about any issues to bring up at the CAC meeting if relevant to Sarah Ross House. Eight items were reported to the Community Member by neighbourhood residents, but not all are relevant to Sarah Ross House.
 - The Community member received two reports of people seen on private property. According to these reports, a person was seen sitting on a patch of lawn at the Sarah Ross building and another person was found sleeping on the porch of a home (and was asked to leave by the resident).
 - Regarding the report about the person on the Sarah Ross lawn, Atira responded that camera footage of the building had been reviewed and nobody was on the lawn at the time that someone was reported to have been there.
 - The VPD stated that they were contacted about the report about the person on the lawn, stated that the person reported was

found to be at the skytrain station (not the building) and followed up directly, ensuring the person was not in medical distress. The VPD CAC representative has followed up with the resident who made the report via email.

- The Community Member received reports of break-ins in the area. It was acknowledged by two Community Members that break-ins are difficult to correlate with Sarah Ross House.
- There were four reports of incidents happening within Sarah Ross House, including a broken window and people screaming loudly.
 - Atira responded that these incidents are monitored quite closely and that there are always consequences for actions such as breaking a window.
 - In response to a question about whether reported incidents occurring within the building had an impact on the people who reported them from outside the building, the Community Member responded that a reported incident had an impact on peace and tranquility for the person reporting and that they were with their children at the time.
- Another Community Member reported that they have not noticed anything of concern as of late and have not heard any concerns from neighbours.
- An additional Community Member stated that they have nothing additional to report. The Community Member stated that while neighbours typically reach out to CAC members before each meeting it has been quiet lately.

4. Action Items and Next Steps

- The Facilitator stated that **the next meeting will be planned for April**, as this CAC meets on a quarterly basis.
- There are no Action Items from this meeting.