

Sarah Ross House  
Community Advisory Committee  
Wednesday Sept 26, 2018  
5:30-6:30PM



405 Powell Street  
Vancouver, BC V6A 1G7

**CLARIFICATION:** At this CAC meeting, Atira reported the building would have a safe injection site open to the community. After consultation with Atira's Executive Director of Operations it is 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 room to prevent overdoses.

**In Attendance:**

VPD  
Community Members (3)  
Atira  
Renfrew Community Centre  
Collingwood Neighbourhood House  
City of Vancouver  
Vancouver Coastal Health

**Updates & Discussion:**

Atira

- A new safe using room to come to Sarah Ross House in early November. Will be available to non-residents, especially those that are found to be using in the field house washroom.

**UPDATE:** At this CAC meeting, Atira reported the building would have a safe injection site open to the community. After consultation with Atira's Executive Director of Operations it is 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 room to prevent overdoses.

- Sarah Ross House had first tenant meeting, it was a great success with the majority of the tenants in attendance

- Sarah Ross House has an emergency bed for women only, if a woman has no where to go the bed is available. Sarah Ross staff then work with the woman to get her connected to appropriate resources.
- The building has now been open for 8 weeks. Move in was a great success, tenants have been settling in well. Members of the community have been making food donations to Sarah Ross House.
- Sarah Ross staff are conducting courtesy community patrols around Slocan Park and around the building.
- Sarah Ross House is planning its grand opening celebration for late October and will be inviting all Community Advisory Committee members as well as neighbours close to Sarah Ross House.

#### City of Vancouver

- New Temporary Modular Housing buildings that have opened include Marpole, Franklin, Powell, this site on Kaslo, Ash Street and Little Mountain will be opening in early October.
- The new garden in Slocan Park was approved by the Park Board in March 2018 and is targeted to complete in February 2019.  
(<https://parkboardmeetings.vancouver.ca/2018/20180312/REPORT-StillCreekCommunityGardenRelocationToSlocanPark-20180312.pdf>)
- The space next to Sarah Ross House, COV will look into who it belongs to and whether it could be used for building programs.

#### VPD

- Calls to the area have increased, largely due to issues with vacant houses.
- Calls to Sarah Ross House have been for minor issues.
- Slocan Park has had no increase in drug users or paraphernalia since the opening of Sarah Ross House.

#### Renfrew Community Centre

- Staff from the Community Centre have been in contact with Building Manager and will be coming to Sarah Ross House to offer an information session for tenants on programs and offering assistance applying for a leisure card
- Will be coming to Sarah Ross House with a Librarian from VPL to discuss programs and memberships to the library

#### Collingwood Neighbourhood House

- 3-4 members of the community have reached out for service with clothing, or food donations

- Saturday breakfast is still going strong and is seeing a great turn out

#### Vancouver Coastal Health

- Home Health is going well at Sarah Ross House
- Client care has had some hiccups, but Kim and Tracy Adams have been working closely to work this out
- Home Health could be working with tenants better, this was communicated by Kim

#### Community Members

- Complaints of more garbage and shopping carts in the ravine, enquired about more police patrols in the area.
  - COV encourages community members to report any non-emergency issues by calling 311 or using the Van Connect app. The need will be documented and logged
- Enquired about tenants keeping blinds closed as neighbours were able to see inside rooms
- Noted that garbage can in front of the ravine entrance is missing
- Expressed that there has not been noticeable impacts from the building since opening.

#### **Action Items and Next Steps**

- CoV to post link to Park Board decision re: garden location approval.
- CoV to follow up with Park Board about the missing garbage can in the Ravine
- CoV to follow up about the space next to Sarah Ross House
- Atira to send posters inviting community to open house event at Sarah Ross House
- Meeting frequency will be every two to three months with the next meeting being in late November