

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

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

1. Welcome and Introductions

a) The facilitator welcomed the group after the summer break.

2. Review of Action Items from Previous Meeting

Action Items	Status
1. Break for summer, reconvene in September. Hold future meetings at 5pm. 2. Think about quarterly meetings.	1. Complete 2. To discuss later in the meeting.

3. Updates and Discussion

a) Atira Women’s Resource Society

- Nothing too concerning since last meeting. We have had one eviction and are looking to relocate this tenant to another ATIRA building
- A request has been submitted by ATIRA to BC Housing and City of Vancouver for options to improve lighting in the back of the building as a safety measure for building residents, so that there is adequate lighting on both the front and back of the building.
- There was also the one year anniversary party at the start of August – some community members came, arts and crafts. Community links are getting stronger.
- The community garden has donated some produce to us as well.
 - o **Community Member:** You said one eviction – was that a result of bad behaviour?
 - **Atira:** Yes, ongoing bad behaviour. The new tenant is a long-term guest who will be moving in.
 - o **Collingwood Neighbourhood House:** Is this the only vacancy?
 - o **Atira:** Yes.

b) BC Housing:

- BC Housing is still exploring options to improve lighting in the alley.

c) City of Vancouver:

- No calls have been received by the City through 3-1-1 about the building.
- The request for increased street lighting along the 4400 Block of Kaslo St (Ticket # 1219662) has been assigned and design plans are underway for installation of roadway lighting on Kaslo St to meet recommended roadway lighting levels.
- The request for lighting in the laneway between E28th and E29th Ave can only be implemented by a local improvement request and the citizen who has requested this through 311 has been advised by City Streets Division on the standardized process that would have to take place to increase lighting along the alley, including a vote and consensus from neighbours, as per City Bylaw practices.
 - **Community Member:** Any way the City can vary their typical practice for this? If the vote goes through then the property tax would increase. It doesn't seem fair for them to carry the full responsibility for it.
 - **City of Vancouver:** It is important for citizens to be aware of the positive effects as well as the unintended consequences of additional alley lighting. In some cases, lighting has gone in, and then there are requests to dim the lighting, or complaints that it is too bright persist. Its important for neighbours to know that that once it goes in, it wouldn't be removed or modified. If the neighbours vote for additional alley lighting, there would be further discussion with the City.
 - **Community Member:** I received a notice about speed bumps in the alley. Is that going through? A lot of the neighbours would be supportive because there's a lot of speeding.
 - **City of Vancouver:** This is the first I've heard of it. , but I can look into and report back

d) Vancouver Coastal Health:

- Nothing to report. There was a question last time about the response time for some clients who may need service, and I followed up with an email.
 - **Atira;** I can confirm that in general, response times are good. We do have a nurse that comes in on a weekly basis and more if we need them to. He works with tenants to have medical needs addressed.

e) Vancouver Police Department:

- No concerns. Stats are normal, two community members had talked to Constable Mike Griffin about some concerns in the neighbourhood. He investigated and relayed that there was nothing to suggest these concerns are related to the modular housing tenants.
 - **Community Member:** One concern I am aware of was a robbery in a neighbour's house. A wallet and cellphone was stolen from a parked car in a

garage. It appeared it was a man and woman involved. We talked to staff on site at Atira to inquire if either were tenants of the building but it did not appear so.

There was another incident – some screaming and yelling and fighting between two people, that went on for an extended period of time, in the ravine area (27th Avenue). I've advised neighbours to call the police, if there is a concern, but whether they do is up to them. Another concern is not just the residents, but also their guests. But if it's a guest to the building, they should be responsible.

- **Atira:** We absolutely take that seriously. Staff are good at keeping track of guests, and since staff are at the building so consistently, they know and recognize people. We also have a list of people we will not allow to return.
- **Vancouver Police:** We encourage neighbours to phone the police if there's a concern.

f) Renfrew Community Centre:

- Nothing to update. There was the one issue with a resident getting the discount applied and now it's all ironed out.
 - **Atira:** We're still trying to encourage people to come to the community centre.
 - **Renfrew Community Centre:** Did anyone attend the full moon event?
 - **Atira:** A few people. We lent our BBQ to the event as well. A few people enjoyed food.

g) Collingwood Neighbourhood House:

- Community Health Centre – A small clinical area to give service will be opened in the neighbourhood house, at the end of October. The main Community Health Care centre will open at Evergreen community health centre in the new year. There will also be outreach to provide onsite health services at Sarah Ross house.
 - Reminder that CNH operates a shuttle and anyone over 55 can use it. It's funded by United Way and it can be used to get to medical appointments, shopping appointments, etc.
- **Collingwood Neighbourhood House:** We also have a homeless program and we are in conversation with BC Housing around the referral process about temporary modular specific to this neighbourhood, and the process of outreach. Whenever rooms become available, we look into housing local people first, not just when temporary modular opens.

h) Community Members:

- **Community Member 1:** I have a report from a neighbour. He observed a woman and a man taking mail from his mailbox and the person seemed to have more mail from

other mailboxes. My neighbour spoke to her and she gave his mail back but not the other mail. He followed her and he said she went to the modular housing site. Apparently he inquired at the building, but I’m not sure he got clear direction on how to move that forward with Atira. I suggested he should contact the police.

- **Atira:** The manager was not in when neighbour came to the building. Atira staff explained the manager would be able to assist with this but they were not there at the time. The neighbor was asked by staff to return when the manager was back. Unfortunately, it does not seem that he returned to discuss with manager.
- **Community Member 1:**
 - **Vancouver Police:** We encourage the neighbour to report this to police even if it’s after the fact; if he can describe a person it will help.
- **Community Member 2:** It seemed there was an increase in activity over the past few months with several incidents in the neighbourhood during a short period of time. I don’t know if it was related to Sarah Ross house, but there was another incident where a couple that was in the back alley, it was mid-day, people were in a car, other cars couldn’t get around, and eventually the police showed up and an ambulance. They were eventually taken away. It was dealt with appropriately. As long as it’s stayed on top of and taken care of, things will be just fine.

i) Additional Comments:

- **City of Vancouver:** The City representative Informed the Committee of an application for development permit for an additional modular housing site at 2303 Vanness Ave. There have been 2 community information sessions held and a decision from Planning is expected in October.
- **Community member:** How does the city decide on locations?
 - **City of Vancouver:** For most Temporary modular sites, The City is the land owner, and generally it is determined by land availability and feasibility. The City provides the land, and then BC Housing handles the building.
- **Community Member:** I can’t help but observe most are on the east side of Vancouver.
 - **City of Vancouver:** There’s definitely a land availability question around that, and I know that comes into play. It’s really just where we can find space.
- **Facilitator:** Moving forward, would meeting on a quarterly basis work for this group?
 - Everyone was in agreement with meeting on a quarterly basis.

Action Items	Responsible
Circulate “Who to call for what” contact numbers for the City of Vancouver, Vancouver Police department and building contact list to CAC	City of Vancouver