

**Margaret Mitchell Place  
2132 Ash Street  
Temporary Modular Housing  
Community Advisory Committee  
Wednesday, November 7, 2018  
5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.**

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

a) At 5:33 p.m. the Facilitator re-introduced herself to the Committee members. The Committee members introduced themselves and their roles.

b) Review of Action Items

i. Railroad Tracks Thicket Trimming

CoV – In early October there had been some pruning in a portion of it, the height came down. Staff looked at it today, next going to request quotes to clear area of the brambles not the trees. City is at the first step of getting a quote.

CAC – Much cleaner than it was before; much appreciated in the neighbourhood.

PHS – We have a sweep team every day doing a full area sweep.

CAC – Well done. Much improved you can tell.

**2. Share stats of people in the building / demographics in the building**

PHS – we don't divulge the breakdown for resident privacy but there is a study happening with CoV, PHS, and BC Housing that will be fully published within the year. We are well over 90% tenanted right now. Waiting for 3 individuals – 1 from VCH, 1 transfer and 1 who lived on the site

CAC – garden reception had a number of people. Broadway still has people sleeping on the street. I thought you were going to fill with local people.

PHS – The Carnegie Outreach Team has identified people who are experiencing homeless locally. Some people were offered housing that is most suitable for them. We would run a transfer for someone who did really well and needed out. Best suited for them.

CoV – The Carnegie Outreach Team works across the city, helps people get ready to move in to multiple housing sites. There are two modular sites Downtown and some on the westside. Even with TMH we will still see people sleeping outside because there are more people in need of housing than there are available places. If you see someone regularly, let us know and we can send the outreach team out to connect with them. It may not necessarily be TMH they move into, but to housing that is available and suitable for them. Through 311 or give details with high-level description to us we can see if we can get them housed.

PHS – Monday through Friday, we send our own staff to go through the community and make those connections ourselves to Carnegie. Every day we're out doing that.

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Carnegie is doing really well at reserving the beds for them for the winter. The shelters are opening now.

CAC – only openings for 600 homes, but have over 2,000 people experiencing homelessness living on the street.

3. CoV going to connect a CAC community member to the CoV legal representative, as requested.

CoV – we forwarded the legal representative’s contact to the CAC community member. That community member is not here this evening so we will ask if they spoke to the legal representative at the next meeting.

4. Adjust meeting frequency to every two months.

### 3. Partner Updates

a) PHS: We receiving funding for and installed frosting on windows for the units and it looks good. We haven’t received any other complaints about people looking into the building. The frosting is for 1/3 of the window for privacy.

Community member – was it a request from the residents?

PHS It was a two-way request. A neighbour saw a naked tenant when they looked into the building.

### b) PHS

A Couple of updates:

- We have a new building name: Margaret Mitchell Place. Now we are building an honourarium program, art program, and establishing the culture of the building. We are looking at what the needs and programming needs of the building will be.
- Our Executive Director has moved on. We are tremendously proud of the work that has happened during Jennifer Breakspear’s tenure. It is unfortunate, but our work and commitment at PHS doesn’t change.

CAC – We want to acknowledge Jennifer for the work that she did at the open houses. Really great and appreciated.

CAC – What is the status of the building east of here [265 West 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue]?

Facilitator: Can the City provide an update on the modular building on West 1<sup>st</sup>?

### c) CoV

1. There was a lot of litter and garbage on the north side of 1<sup>st</sup> Ave between Cambie and Columbia, better known as the area where police vehicles are stored. The City sent a crew in and cleaned up the litter. Please let me know if this becomes an issue again and I will bring it to the attention of the proper City department.

2. We discussed having a plaque being made to honour Margaret Mitchell that would be affixed in front of the building. It arrived this morning [showed the plaque and read it aloud for the meeting]

PHS – we are in the process of having the signage changed in front of the building as well.

CAC question – What is the timing for the building on West 1st?

CoV - We are awaiting issuance of the development permit. As soon as that has been done, assuming they are approved with no conditions, looking at the timelines at other buildings that could happen fairly shortly and then we can indicate to the community that the construction will start. We don't get advance notice of when things will happen, but we will inform when we know. A two-block construction radius, a bit smaller, and will inform this group as well.

CAC – What is the address of the building?

PHS – 265 West 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue

CAC – to clarify – I thought the development permit was approved? Is this the construction permit?

CoV – The development permit is close to being ready to issue and is on track.

d) VCH

No specific updates from health. General update – our corporate administration offices are directly across; we've been watching this building go up very quickly and it's been amazing. We all know people's health improves when they move into safe housing so this is just wonderful.

CAC – flu season – will you be providing the vaccination?

PHS – we are in the process of setting it up with our pharmacy to come to our building.

CAC – does 265 W. 1<sup>st</sup> Ave back on to Cambie Bridge?

CAC – no it's by Sole Foods by the planters.

CAC – Have the meetings started for it?

CAC – yes, and the open houses took place last year.

CAC – my concern is that you shouldn't put all the social housing in the same area. I just want to make sure that this one isn't within two blocks of one another.

CoV – We heard that concern at the open house for both of the sites- that there is too much below-market housing in their community. However, this area was always anticipated to be a mix of housing types for diverse incomes. We anticipate that the housing mix will enrich the community to move people from living outside to under a roof. That's why these meetings are so beneficial.

CAC – South False Creek (SFC) was built with mixed housing 33 % social, 33% leased, 33% strata.

CoV – It was envisioned as mixed housing, child care, market rental, community centre, always intended to be a community with mixed incomes. Adding supportive housing has added to this mix.

CAC – the SFC plan is 30 years, Southeast False Creek is about 10 years old.

e) VPD

Since the building opened, there have been 25 calls for service to the building. September had 11, October had 13, and November has had 1. About a third of the calls are missing persons calls, staff report they are missing as per the PHS policy that requires us to report to police when we cannot account for a person's whereabouts after a specified amount of time.

PHS – We are moving in a lot of youth who may not understand why we have this policy and getting them on board with letting us know they are okay. After 2 days of missed check-ins, we contact police to make sure they aren't in the hospital, missing, incarcerated.

PHS – these are people who are getting used to being housed. The policy is born out of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.

VPD – This is not an uncommon policy. We take it seriously.

CAC – Any calls about violence?

VPD – No. There was one fight, but the call was cancelled after matters resolved themselves

F: CAC

1. Any update on connecting to schools?

PHS – We plan to in late November, early December letting the residents settle first.

CAC – Photos of events involving the residents be posted online?

PHS – We will look in to this being mindful of privacy.

2. I was hearing in the lead up that people were concerned, but since the building has been tenanted, haven't heard from anyone and go to neighbourhood association monthly and haven't heard anything negative there either.

Another lovely thing happened – someone in my building heard about welcoming packages being done for another building so she organized it for this building and the neighbourhood association provided \$500 and she made bags and delivered them and it was great.

PHS – We will have another party once the building is tenanted.

CAC – She would love to come.

PHS – We have been in touch with her, she came to the welcoming and has walked through the building.

3. Talking to the neighbours no concerns, building looks great, no complaints or concerns. People are interested to learn how it's going.

4. There was a lot of apprehension initially. Since that time, I've heard no complaints. The concern is the number of these buildings going in. This is not what we expected here when we arrived 30 years ago. That said, PHS is doing a great job.

Facilitator – We have not had any representation or communication from VSB so we will reach out again. The PAC rep is sick today.

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PHS – We haven't heard anything from the VSB. If we get concerns we would go and address them. De-escalation is what we do.

Actions

- West 1<sup>st</sup> timing and plan
- Sharing good stories online
- Reach out to VSB

Facilitator – We could meet in March or April? Keeping in mind the partners have committed to convening if there is a specific issue.

CAC – For the new building will there be a new CAC or this one?

CoV – There will be a new one. We want to offer the opportunity for other community members to participate.

Ended at 6:18pm.