

Larwill Place Community Advisor Committee

Dec 10, 2018

5:30pm-7:00pm

Peter McKay Room, Vancouver Public Library

Attendees:

Position
Community Member
Community Member
British Columbia Regiment
Vancouver Community College
Vancouver Public Library
Downtown Vancouver Business Improvement Association
Vancouver Police
City of Vancouver
City of Vancouver
BC Housing
Vancouver Coastal Health
MPA Society
MPA Society

Minutes

- 1) Welcome and Introductions
- 2) Review action items from previous meeting:
 - a) Contact number for Larwill office phone line 604-558-7600, building is staffed 24/7 so should be answered at all times; leave message if not, MPA will get back to you promptly
 - b) Tour dates for CAC members: invites were sent out for media event/open house, anyone who missed can get a tour before 620 (building #2) is tenanted
- 3) Partner Updates:
 - a) MPA: Tenants have begun to move in, 26 tenants have moved into building 610. Watching folks move in has been heart warming. Two community contacts one person inquiring how to get a family member moved in and another was a business owner concerned about potential crime, MPA to meet with them tomorrow. 1 fire department call due to fire panel issues, no significant operational issues to report
 - b) BC Housing: No updates
 - c) City of Vancouver: All the sites for the 600 units are built or under construction. Heather Lands will open next, then West 1st Ave, followed by final site at Union & Gore; Larwill place is site 7 of 10 to open in Vancouver

- d) VCH Update - Continuing to meet with MPA to organize health services to support clients. Leadership changes, new director who may attend future CAC meetings
- e) VPD Update - North Shore realtors have blanket drive every year, VPD has been collecting some, will drop off to the site tomorrow
- f) VCC Update - Making Christmas gift baskets (tooth brushes, hair products, gift certificates for bakery) for tenants.
- g) VPL Update - Providing welcome bags for the tenants, no changes seen at library from security perspective
- h) DVBIA: Members are saying increase in camping and homeless individuals on the streets in the downtown which is common for winter. Question around tracking of trends with homeless individuals, City staff noted City has data on people who are homeless through the annual homeless count. City also has dedicated CoV outreach staff that are out daily to connect with folks directly to connect them with services and build relationships.
- i) BCR Update - Regiment is stood down until after Christmas not many people on site, soldiers' dinner was held past Saturday.
- j) Community member updates- Some discussion about whether QE theatre would join CAC (offer has been made, waiting to hear back), opportunities for community interaction, and questions around donations; No community impact noted from Larwill Place

Questions

Q: Why are buildings not fully tenanted yet?

A: Best practices have shown that gradual move-ins help in ensuring successful tenancies. It is less stressful on tenants and staff if it happens slowly, it allows staff to get to know everyone moving in and assess their needs and supports accordingly. Priority is being given to the most vulnerable, and MPA is working to get as many people in as quickly as possible

Q: How often are homeless counts conducted?

A: Homeless counts are done annually in Vancouver always in March. Anyone can volunteer to participate in this- they would be trained by the City of Vancouver. Across Metro Vancouver they are done every three years. Does the count include people in campers? Yes it does. They are counted in the homeless count and the city's outreach staff does connect with them throughout the year as well.

Q: What is the difference between Social Housing and Supportive Housing?

social housing is a building that is owned by government or non-profit where tenants must meet a income limit to qualify, among other eligibility criteria. The focus of social housing is affordability, and for more independent tenants, although sometimes there may be low level of supports offered on site. Supportive Housing buildings are a form of social housing but an additional layer of support is provided by the operator (life skills, food program, employment assistance, etc)

Q: Can we do a drive for items from community members now or should we wait until after Xmas?

Donations are always welcome (with the caveat that they are appropriate and functional items, not damaged items) but especially during Christmas time. MPA is setting up a donations room at the site to help with any items that tenants are in need of, and support from the community is greatly appreciated

Action Items

Item	Agency Responsible	Completed?
MPA to coordinate with VCC, VPL, and Nicole for Xmas hampers and other donations	MPA/VCC/VPL/Nicole	
Arrange for date of community engagement at QE theatre for Larwill residents	MPA	

Next Meeting

TBD, Peter McKay Room, 5:30pm-6:30pm