

Larwill Place Community Advisory Committee

January 16, 2020

5:30pm-6:30pm

Queen Elizabeth Theatre

Attendees:

Position
Community Members (2)
VPD
Downtown Vancouver Business Improvement Association (DVBIA)
Vancouver Public Library
BC Regiment
City of Vancouver
BC Housing
MPA Society

Regrets: VCH, VCC, Vancouver School Board

1. Outstanding Action Items

- a. Include link to BC Housing Modular Survey (included in updates section)
<https://www.bchousing.org/research-centre/library/transition-from-homelessness/modular-supportive-housing-resident-outcomes>
- b. MPA to Connect with VPL regarding opportunities at Larwill (VPL/MPA) – In progress

2. Welcome and Introductions

- a. New VPD and BC Housing members introduced to CAC

3. Updates and Discussions

- b. MPA Society: Quiet at the building, winter temperatures highlight the importance of sites such as Larwill. Continuing to see improvements in residents' health and happiness; quantitative research showing positive health impacts and reduction in hospital visits by residents once housed
- c. BC Housing: No updates
- d. CoV: No updates from City, provided two resources for community services in Vancouver
- e. VPD: New member introduced and excited to be on the committee
- f. VPL: In general incidents at the library have increased however it is not linked to Larwill. New coffee program is running Tuesday mornings 6am-8am
- g. DVBIA: Survey results back from people who visit downtown (work and live) homelessness is the #1 concern, up 6% from the previous survey three years ago. More and more businesses are reaching out to find ways to give back to the community
- h. BC Regiment: No updates, replacement has not been found for CAC yet
- i. Community Members:

- i. No updates, no issues
- ii. No reports from other community members regarding Larwill, interested in doing a drive for items needed by people that are homeless or recently housed at Larwill

4. Questions

Are the units warm in the winter or cold?

MPA: The units are very warm, utilities are included in rent so tenants are not shy to use their heaters

How is the culture of the building?

MPA: People have bonded, there is a diverse age range and the friendships that have formed are surprising and wonderful

CAC member had an interaction with a person in a park who was angry that BC Housing was paying \$100/night for each winter shelter bed that was filled, is that true?

MPA: MPA is not running any shelters and cannot comment on any programs that we are not a part of, however historically winter shelters funded by BC Housing are based on approved operating budgets and not per diem rates

When does the Nanaimo station modular site open?

MPA: It's our understanding that the new site will open some time in mid-March 2020. It will be run by Community Builders Group

In the summer it was reported that crime was up across the city, how are things now?

VPD: Will look into recent stats and try to provide updates at the next meeting. In the mean time Geodash is an app that tracks calls for service that the public can use <https://geodash.vpd.ca/>

5. Scheduling:

- a. Next meeting will be in April, CoV will provide date/time once venue is confirmed

6. Action Items

- a. MPA to reach out to QE theatre rep to see if they are still interested in joining CAC
- b. MPA to reach out to VPL re: partnership opportunities
- c. MPA to Connect with DV BIA and Community Member for needed items at Larwill
- d. MPA to include minutes with next meeting invite