

**Larwill Place Community Advisory Committee**

**September 23, 2019**

**5:30pm-6:30pm**

**BMO Room, Vancouver Public Library**

**Attendees:**

<b>Position</b>
Community Members (2)
Vancouver Coastal Health
Downtown Vancouver Business Improvement Association (DVBIA)
Vancouver Public Library
City of Vancouver
BC Housing
MPA Society

Regrets: VCC, VPD, BC Regiment, Vancouver School Board

**1. Outstanding action items**

- a. VCC open house: email sent out on March 27<sup>th</sup> to all CAC members, community member attended
- b. MPA to follow up with Mission Possible regarding street clean up: MPA started first phase of the peer program, residents doing garbage clean up and needle pick up on the property and surrounding area. Community member is interested in partnering with that program.

**2. Welcome and Introductions**

- a. New VCH member introduced to CAC

**3. Updates and Discussions**

- a. MPA Society: Peer program has commenced, MPA is looking to increase the frequency and geographic perimeter but taking time to build capacity. Buildings are fully tenanted, very successful start, no complaints related to the building since last meeting, occasional call asking for information. Oppenheimer Park decanting happened, MPA was able to take on three new residents.
- b. BC Housing: Released summary reports about the first year of modular housing. 94% residents remain housed, <https://www.bchousing.org/research-centre/library/transition-from-homelessness/modular-supportive-housing-resident-outcomes>
- c. CoV: No updates
- d. VCH: Larwill is working really well, medically complex clients are being placed in that site. Reviews are conducted once a year to ensure everyone is at the appropriate support level. Hospitals are beginning to suggest people be placed in modular due to success.

*MPA response: Outcomes speak for themselves, one client was very medically compromised upon moving in and considered palliative. They are now connected with appropriate supports, complying with medications and stronger than ever. We have been able to bridge some gaps in supportive housing and assisted living; individuals who previously who didn't fit the mandate for either are now getting services at Larwill and are being housed successfully. We're very happy for the support from VCH to make this program possible*

- e. VPD: Regrets – sent email mentioning there were no issues at Larwill and partnership has been working well
- f. VCC: Regrets
- g. VPL: What is the role of VPL now that the site is more established? Is it time for community engagements staff to be on site and talk about what the library offers.

*MPA response: Would be great to foster more community between residents in Library. Any opportunity for programming or information exchange would be useful for the residents*

- h. DVBlA: There is a lot of construction surrounding the site. Homelessness continues to be a concern for all partners, however there has been a big improvement since Larwill has opened. Notice a trend in people refusing assistance offered, and new people homeless in the downtown area
- i. BC Regiment: Regrets
- j. Community Members:
  - i. Community Member #1: has been engaging the crosstown community, have been experiencing increase in issues in the neighbourhood. Some examples were fires being set in back alley of Beatty Lane, graffiti increase, break ins. Wondered if the increase of issues could be related to Larwill

*DVBlA response: All of those things are on the rise around the city (graffiti, break-ins, crime), no evidence that there is any connection to the housing site.*

*MPA response: It is frustrating for people to experience these incidents, and when there is supportive housing in an area it is common to wonder if it is because of the residents, but we've been diligent in working with our neighbours and haven't seen any signs that these incidents are related to Larwill. If there is ever any reasonable reason to suspect someone from our site is involved we will work as neighbours to identify any familiar faces but our experience is that it's getting quieter and we're experiencing less traffic. The downtown east side is gentrifying and people are being displaced, the sidewalks along Hastings St are full with tents and vendors which may be another reason why traffic is expanding.*

*VCH response: These incidents are happening on a corridor leading to Granville area as well which is another location that has a lot of action, it is also normal for a wax and wane of the "core" area of the DTES which has shifted in the last 10 years*

*City response: There are many factors that could be attributed to these issues, such as rent increases and displacement*

- ii. Community Member #2- There has been no noticeable change since Larwill set up. Re-iterated issues raised by other community member, primarily break-ins and some random property damage but didn't see any connection to Larwill

#### 4. Questions

##### **Are the buildings 100% full?**

MPA: Yes, the buildings are completely full and now we have normal turnover. We have seen people move to more independent housing, some residents have been repatriated to their home towns/provinces, some have been transferred to more appropriate sites, and some have passed away.

##### **Seems contradictory that BC housing says goal is to stay, but the examples of people moving home sounds like a success. What is the goal?**

BC Housing/MPA: Our goal is to create a welcoming community, provide supports, and avoid evictions. If someone states that they want to move to more independent housing, another city/province, etc we will absolutely assist where possible. BC Housing is not telling us that we shouldn't be moving people along, and are quite supportive with that when requested. There is a program called STEP that identifies people that don't need the supports any longer and moves them into more independent housing.

##### **Is there a high volume of visitors? There has been increase in traffic in the area and wondering if it is being experienced at your site.**

MPA: If anything the level of pedestrian traffic has been reduced as the program has settled in over the past 10 months. The amount of guests coming to the site is pretty average. We are aware of any increase or new guests as we need ensure that our tenants are not being taken advantage of. The addition of the Translink bus lot in the adjacent parking lot has reduced the amount of foot traffic cutting through during events at Rogers Arena

##### **How did you make out during the summer with the heat?**

MPA: The buildings held up well. The main floor common area is air conditioned and the rest of the site is ambient air circulation. The upper floors naturally experienced higher temperatures, some residents were supplied fans and some purchased their own AC units.

##### **Is there more modular in the works?**

CoV: Council is reviewing possibility of allowing TMH to be built in single family zoned areas. There is one site that is currently being proposed on Vanness Ave (near Nanaimo Skytrain station), has not been approved yet.

#### 5. CAC Scheduling:

- a. Discussed frequency of meetings needed moving forward as the committee has met the requirements of the terms of reference. Committee discussed the benefit of continuing but not requiring a high frequency of meetings. It was reiterated that members can reach out to MPA at any time with questions or concerns, and if there is an issue that needs to be addressed a meeting can be called. The committee agreed to continuing the meetings on a quarterly basis for the time being

## **6. Action Items and Next Steps**

- a. Include link to BC Housing Modular Survey (included in updates section)
- b. MPA to Connect with VPL regarding opportunities at Larwill (Jade)
- c. MPA to send out next meeting date once room is confirmed