

Larwill Place Community Advisor Committee

6 November 2018

5:30pm-7:00pm

Peter McKay Room, Vancouver Public Library

Attendees:

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

Minutes

1. Review of agenda,

- Format will remain the same in future
- Minute notes will be posted on City of Vancouver and MPA Society website
- Overview of partners and programs provided, attendees introduced themselves

2. Partner Updates

- a) MPA: Buildings are still under construction, handover anticipated by the end of the month. The hiring process for staff and tenant selection process for residents are both on going. Anticipating opening the buildings within a week of hand over.
- b) BC Housing: No updates
- c) City of Vancouver: The BC government funded 2000 Temporary Modular Housing units province-wide, 600 units of which are in City of Vancouver. This is part of a rapid response to homelessness and the funding includes both the building and the cost of operations. Larwill place is building 6 of 10 to open in Vancouver (CORRECTION: it's the 7th site).
- d) Vancouver Coastal Health: VCH involved in all modular projects (re)connecting residents with appropriate services including primary care, addictions, home health. At Larwill Place, clinical services will be on site. These services include a nurse, 3 in suite support workers, and a medication support program.

- e) VPD: VPD will work with the operator and tenants should there be any issues related to criminality as we do with any other landlord. If a crime is in progress please call 911, for non-emergency issues contact VPD non-emergency phone number.
- f) VCC: there are several programs offered at the college that are available to the general public already or may have partnership opportunities in the future. VCC trains nurses who can provide check ups and vaccinations, drug and alcohol addictions counsellors, they offer a low cost dental clinic, a hair salon which provides \$12 haircuts, a “dress for success” job interview program and a culinary program which sells \$4 hamburgers and \$1.25 loaves of bread.
- g) VPL: There are several programs which may be available to the general public and may offer partnership opportunities in the future. The library offers SUCCESS resume writing workshops, tech classes, and community outreach.
- h) Downtown Vancouver BIA: Dominic Long spoke of existing clean-up and safety programs being conducted by DV BIA, and that they are in support of the Larwill Program. DV BIA has made improvements with needle collection in problematic areas such as Cathedral Square.
- i) BC Regiment: The unit has experienced 3 fires in the last calendar year and has dealt with challenges related to homelessness. Response has been to add more security and fences, however after linking with MPA they accessed resources they have never known or used before to address their issues.
- j) Community members: Community members were excited that the project has potential to be positive for the community. Have questions about how safety concerns will be addressed but remain optimistic and hopeful.

3. Discussion

- *Committee discussed tenant selection process. All tenants will go through the coordinated access process with BC Housing, the City of Vancouver, Vancouver Coastal Health and MPA to determine who is most appropriate for the building. The top priority is persons who are homeless in Downtown Vancouver after which a variety of factors are considered*
- *Question raised about requirement to adhere to a program. People who will live in the building have been identified as needing supports prior to moving in. Support programs will be provided based on needs of tenants, which include: meal program, job search support, primary care assistance, mental health services, addictions & recovery support, arts/recreational/social support, as well as peer employment*
- *Question about alcohol or drug-use in building. The apartments at Larwill Place will be like any residence, what tenants do in their own suite is their own business. However, if any resident’s behaviour has a negative impact in the building or the surrounding community, MPA will address that with the person in question.*

Concern raised about building becoming a beacon for other people who are homeless in the area. MPA clarified that the building and services will only be for residents, and it is not a drop in centre or shelter. VPD mentioned that a liaison will be assigned to the building and will work with MPA if there are any issues

- *Question around how future vacancies will be filled. BC Housing has an extensive wait list, over 2000 people were identified in the last homeless count as experiencing homelessness. The main focus of initial tenanting is homeless individuals who are in the downtown area and this will remain for backfills as well.*
- *Question raised about how to deal with crime, Rexall at the International Village currently has a high theft rate; if someone is caught stealing from the pharmacy what is the process to contact MPA? If a crime is in progress please call 911. If you have a valid reason to believe the person is connected to the Larwill Program, such as the loss-prevention officer followed the person into his unit at Larwill, then let MPA know and they will work with VPD if necessary. MPA reminded committee that tenants are already experiencing stigma, and assumption of criminality is common but not deserved.*
- *Question raised about Harm Reduction program in the building. All staff will be trained to administer naloxone, clean supplies will be provided, as well as receptacles for used supplies. MPA will also be providing neighbourhood garbage and needle collection services to surrounding area as part of a peer employment program.*
- *MPA informed committee that if there are any questions, concerns, or emergencies, neighbours are encouraged to call the front desk which will be staffed 24/7. The primary phone number has not been assigned yet, but will be distributed when received*
- *Meeting adjourned.*

Action Items

Item	Agency Responsible	Completed?
Disseminate direct building contact information when available	MPA	
Disseminate date for open house/ CAC tour when set	MPA	

Next Meeting: Tuesday, 11 December 2018, Peter McKay Room, 5:30pm-6:30pm