

## **Alderbridge Supportive Housing Community Advisory Committee**

Tuesday, September 22, 2020 – 6:00 p.m.

**In attendance:** Diana Bulley (Facilitator), Sean Spear (RainCity Housing), Adina Edwards (RainCity Housing), Emma McGarry (RainCity Housing), Cody Spencer (City of Richmond), Edwin Tahir (City of Richmond), Carmen Hall (BC Housing), Jerod Killick (Vancouver Coastal Health), Jamil Karim (City Centre Community Association), Timothy Osiowy (Community Member), and Julie Halfnights (Community Member).

### **1. Welcome and Introduction**

- The facilitator welcomed committee members to the meeting.

### **2. Action Items from Previous Meeting**

- Carmen Hall (BC Housing) reported that BC Housing completed the neighbourhood survey discussed at the previous meeting. The survey radius was likely 100 to 200 metres.
- Jamil Karim (City Centre Community Centre) reported that he followed up with RainCity Housing after the previous meeting to distribute the winter hours for City Centre Community Centre.

### **3. Updates and Discussion**

Committee members discussed the Alderbridge Supportive Housing and provided the following updates.

#### **A. RainCity Housing**

- Sean Spear reported that everything is going well at the building.
- Adina Edwards provided the following update:
  - Over the past few months, RainCity have noticed more individuals who are not associated with the building coming on to the Alderbridge property. This activity is likely a result of facility closures during the COVID-19 pandemic. For example, City Centre Community Centre and other City facilities have closed on a temporary basis. To respond to this activity, BC Housing has provided funding to install a new fence on the property. The fence should reduce outdoor activity from individuals who are not residents and prevent future noise issues.

- A community member asked a question about ambulances and other emergency services visiting the building.
  - Adina Edwards indicated that tenants in the building have experienced increased feelings of isolation and depression due to COVID-19. In general, when emergency services visit the building, the purpose is to respond to a tenant who has experienced an overdose. RainCity staff always respond with Naxolone but are also required to call for emergency services.
  
- A community member reported that some needles and other debris have been noticed in the neighbourhood.
  - Adina Edwards reported that RainCity staff are still completing neighbourhood sweeps three times a day, but may occasionally miss needles. Needles are likely related to individuals experiencing homelessness in the area—not Alderbridge tenants. However, RainCity still encourages neighbouring residents to notify RainCity staff when needles have been found.

#### **B. BC Housing**

- Carmen Hall reported no updates associated with the building and stated that a number of BC Housing buildings in Metro Vancouver have experienced an increase in outdoor activity during the COVID-19 pandemic. Similar to the Alderbridge building, this activity is generally associated with people who are not building residents.

#### **C. City of Richmond**

- Cody Spencer reported no updates related to the Alderbridge building. The City continues to liaise with RainCity staff on an ongoing basis. In the last six months, the City has received two complaints about debris in the general neighbourhood. This debris was likely unrelated to the Alderbridge building. However, the City notified RainCity staff, who promptly collected the items as a courtesy and a good neighbour.
- Edwin Tahir from the City of Richmond’s Community Bylaws Department reported zero calls for service related to the Alderbridge Supportive Housing.

#### **D. City Centre Community Centre**

- Jamil Karim reported that programming has shifted at City Centre Community Centre to focus on online activities during the COVID-19 pandemic. Various activities are still being delivered and Jamil will follow-up with RainCity to provide more details.

#### **E. Vancouver Coastal Health**

- Jarod Killick indicated that there are no new updates.

## **F. Community Members**

- A community member asked if any Alderbridge tenants have been able to transition to other housing options.
  - Emma McGarry (RainCity Housing) reported that RainCity staff have worked with BC Housing to arrange rent supplements for multiple tenants to enable them to transition to market rental housing. These tenants initially required the supports provided at the Alderbridge building, but were able to transition to independent housing after achieving stability in their lives.
  
- A community member asked RainCity to remind their tenants and guests not to leave needles in the neighbourhood.
  - Carmen Hall (BC Housing) suggested that needles found in the neighbourhood are likely unrelated to Alderbridge tenants and may be associated with an overall increase in homelessness during COVID-19.
  - Cody Spencer (City of Richmond) reported that the City has noticed an increase in homelessness throughout the City, including the City Centre area. The City has an established process in place for the safe disposal of needles. If residents find a needle, they are encouraged to notify the City's Public Works Department for disposal. They can be reached at 604-270-8721.

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

- The meeting facilitator asked a question about meeting frequency for future CAC meetings.
  - Community members discussed meeting frequency and suggested that meetings should be held every two to three months.
  
- Action item:
  - Jamil Karim will work with RainCity staff to notify Alderbridge tenants about upcoming events provided by the City Centre Community Centre.

## **5. Adjournment**

- a. The meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be scheduled for Winter 2020.