

Richmond Modular Housing Community Advisory Committee

Richmond Modular Housing – 6999 Alderbridge Way

February 28, 2019

Meeting Room 1, City Centre Community Centre

6:00 p.m.

In Attendance:

Diana Bulley (Facilitator), Adina Edwards (RainCity Housing), Emma Lamperson (Recorder), Emma McGarry (RainCity Housing), Sean Spear (RainCity Housing), Cody Spencer (City of Richmond), Maria Rodrigo (BC Housing), and 2 Community Members

Regrets:

Karen Barclay (Vancouver Coastal Health), Heather Hall (Richmond RCMP), Carli Williams (City of Richmond)

1. Welcome and Introductions

- Diana Bulley welcomed members to the first Richmond Modular Housing Community Advisory Committee meeting to discuss the modular housing project to open at 6999 Alderbridge Way.
- Round table introductions followed.

2. Overview of Agenda and Meeting Format

- Diana Bulley discussed the agenda and format for subsequent meetings
- Meeting format will include:
 - Introductions
 - Organizational updates
 - Feedback and comments from community members
 - Meeting minutes will be provided to committee members and posted publicly following meetings.
- Committee membership:
 - Applications are still incoming
 - Three of five community member spots have been filled and two spots remain to be filled.

3. Terms of Reference

- The terms of reference were distributed to committee members to be reviewed and signed by the next meeting.
- Key points from the terms of reference were discussed:
 - Selection process
 - Time commitment of twelve months
 - The committee is an advisory committee, not an action committee
 - Rules of conduct need to be upheld by all members

- If speaking to the media, do not act as a spokesperson for this committee. You should represent yourself as a member of the public. Media inquiries should be directed to RainCity staff.

4. Updates and Discussion

Committee stakeholders provided updates and discussed the modular housing to be completed at 6999 Alderbridge Way.

A) RainCity Housing

- Sean Spear, Associate Director, RainCity Housing, provided background and building updates on the modular housing at 6999 Alderbridge Way.
 - This is RainCity Housing's first modular housing building in Richmond
 - RainCity Housing also has several housing projects including modular and permanent supportive housing in other cities
 - The building's outside structure is finished and the plumbing and electrical work needs to be completed
 - RainCity Housing's leadership team is ready and waiting to get occupancy in early April
 - There will be more information to report once the housing opens
- A community member asked about how the application process works.
 - Sean Spear responded that it is a referral process where outreach workers complete applications for interested applicants who are homeless or living in shelters in Richmond
 - RainCity Housing met with the Ministry of Social Development and organizations such as The Salvation Army and Turning Point two weeks ago and it is anticipated that most referrals will go to BC Housing
 - Adina Edwards added that interested individuals can email RainCity Housing to be referred and start the application process
 - Cody Spencer, Affordable Housing Program Manager, City of Richmond, mentioned that Turning Point is busy supporting applicants through the application process
- A community member asked how many units are in the new building.
 - Sean responded that the building will have forty units.

B) BC Housing

- Maria Rodrigo, Supportive Housing Advisor, provided a timeline update from BC Housing.
 - The handover is expected to occur at the end of March and tenancy is anticipated to be at the end of April; however, the dates may change.

C) City of Richmond

- Cody Spencer, Affordable Housing Program Manager, provided an update from the City of Richmond.
 - The City of Richmond and Richmond City Council support the project, which aligns with City values. Supportive housing is also a key aspect of the City's Affordable Housing policies.

D) City Centre Community Centre – Regrets

E) Vancouver Coastal Health – Regrets

F) Richmond RCMP – Regrets

G) Community Members

- A community member commented that the project needs to work on next steps [of providing affordable housing] to be effective.
 - Maria Rodrigo discussed provincial affordable housing funding and the plans to build housing along the housing continuum.
- A community member noted that there are many affordable housing options in Richmond, but access can be difficult due to long waitlists.
- A community member mentioned she is familiar with homeless people in the area and has a lot of experience with addictions and mental health.
- Community members noted that there could be tension in the community when the building opens and everything needs to be set up properly from the beginning to avoid any issues or problems. It would help to understand what neighbours might want or expect.
- A community member reflected on the project in Marpole and how positive it was that the community ended up embracing it.
 - Sean Spear noted that members of the public may initially try to stop a project and may be curious close to the opening date. It is important to have 24-hour response in case any issues arise and provide contact information to residents in the area. RainCity Housing would like community members to contact building staff if an issue occurs, so that anything can be resolved quickly.
 - RainCity will report any calls to the building from the community to this committee.
- A community member recommended translating communication materials into Chinese to reduce confusion and misinformation.
- Maria Rodrigo noted that what happened at Marguerite Ford, an affordable housing building in Vancouver, was a good learning experience and it is important that RainCity Housing has the capacity to meet the needs of residents to ensure nobody falls between the cracks.

5. Action Items and Next Steps

- **Action item:** Translating materials into Chinese, such as information for neighbours and also RainCity Housing staff's contact information.
- A community member suggested future meetings could start at 5 p.m. instead of 6 p.m or possibly during the day.
 - RainCity Housing recommended creating a poll and Cody Spencer said he would check with Vancouver Coastal Health and the Richmond RCMP about their preferred meeting time.

The next Richmond Modular Housing Community Advisory Committee meeting will be scheduled shortly.

6. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:39 p.m.

Certified a true and correct copy of the minutes of the meeting of the Richmond Modular Housing Community Advisory Committee held on February 28, 2019.

Diana Bulley
Chair

Date

Emma Lamperson
Recorder

Date