

Richmond Temporary Modular Supportive Housing Community Advisory Committee

Richmond Modular Housing – 6999 Alderbridge Way
April 2, 2019
Meeting Room 1, City Centre Community Centre
6:00 p.m.

In Attendance:

Diana Bulley (Facilitator), Karen Barclay (Vancouver Coastal Health), Monica Bennington (City of Richmond), Jennifer Chow (RCMP), Adina Edwards (RainCity Housing), Jamil Karim (City Centre Community Association), Ron Graham (City of Richmond), Emma Lamperson (City of Richmond - Recorder), Emma McGarry (RainCity Housing Society), Sean Spear (RainCity Housing Society), Maria Rodrigo (BC Housing), and 5 Community Members

1. Welcome and Introductions

- Diana Bulley welcomed members and provided an overview of the agenda. The same agenda format will be used for subsequent meetings.
- Round table introductions followed.

2. Terms of Reference

- Diana Bulley outlined the terms of reference and asked members to bring a signed copy to the next meeting.

3. Updates and Discussion

Project Partner committee members (City of Richmond, Vancouver Coastal Health, RCMP, RainCity Housing Society) provided updates and discussed the modular housing to be tenanted at 6999 Alderbridge Way.

A) RainCity Housing

- Adina Edwards (RainCity Housing Society) provided the following update:
 - Staff training has started onsite.
 - Tenants have been selected and will start to move-in in April.
 - The 40 units have been allocated.
 - Four (4) units are wheelchair accessible.
 - Selected tenants are from Richmond and have history with local service providers.
 - A mix of individuals with different support needs will be housed.
 - A minimum of two staff will be available 24-hours a day.

- Karen Barclay (Vancouver Coastal Health) asked about the procedure for communicating to applicants.
 - Adina Edwards responded that service providers will be notified the status of the application process and will communicate this to their clients.
- Karen Barclay (Vancouver Coastal Health) asked if public communication will be provided about the move-in date.
 - Adina Edwards noted that when the building opens there will be a 24 hour phone line to the building and this number will be shared with neighbours and the committee.

B) BC Housing

- Maria Rodrigo (BC Housing) indicated there are no updates from BC Housing.

C) City of Richmond

- Monica Bennington (City of Richmond) indicated that the City is supporting development and occupancy of the temporary modular supportive housing.
- A community member asked about the temporary aspect of the temporary modular supportive housing for tenants and future housing support available for them.
 - Monica Bennington responded that the City is working in partnership with BC Housing to develop much needed affordable housing units, including permanent supportive housing units.
 - Karen Barclay (Vancouver Coastal Health) discussed the care continuum and housing supports for individuals with mental health issues and mobility issues. BC Housing provides support to clients with socioeconomic limitations that do not require supportive housing but still require housing with subsidies.
 - The same community member asked if these options have long waitlists.
 - Karen Barclay indicated that there are long waitlists, but that applicants are prioritized based on need.

D) City Centre Community Centre

- Jamil Karim (City Centre Community Association) indicated that the City Centre Community Centre will be supporting the 40 tenants to help integrate and welcome them into to the neighbourhood.

E) Vancouver Coastal Health

- Karen Barclay (Vancouver Coastal Health) indicated there are no new updates.

F) Richmond RCMP

- Jennifer Chow (RCMP) stated she is excited to see how the temporary modular supportive housing changes the number of people experiencing homelessness in Richmond. She is excited to give good news to applicants that were successful.
- Ron Graham (City of Richmond) inquired about the individuals experiencing homelessness in Hamilton.
 - In addition to the Richmond temporary modular supportive housing, Maria Rodrigo (BC Housing) indicated that New Westminster will be developing modular supportive housing this year.

G) Community Members

- A community member commented she is thrilled that tenants will be moving into the temporary modular supportive housing.
- A community member indicated that he will bring forward questions from his neighbourhood regarding the temporary modular supportive housing to the next meeting.
- A community member suggested community members should see the building.
 - Adina Edwards (RainCity Housing Society) responded that members of the Richmond Modular Housing Community Advisory Committee will be able to tour the building prior to tenants moving in.
- The same community member asked if there were house rules.
 - Adina Edwards mentioned there is a Good Neighbour Agreement that must be signed by individuals before moving in to the building. RainCity Housing Society will continue to facilitate open communication with the Committee and members of the public and will respond to complaints quickly.
 - A committee member asked if copies of the Good Neighbour Agreement could be provided.
 - Adina Edwards responded that copies can be provided and noted the agreement pertains to reasonable issues in the neighbourhood.
 - Sean Spear (RainCity Housing Society) explained the process for addressing any complaints about the building brought forward by the community. Staff will document and address issues, and resolutions will be managed on an individual basis. A summary of any calls to the building and how any issues were resolved will be provided at the Community Advisory Committee meetings.
 - Adina Edwards added that any building-related issues can be resolved quickly if neighbours directly contact RainCity Housing Society staff. This would also reduce unnecessary calls to the RCMP if it is not an emergency situation.

- A community member asked how the numbers of individuals in each unit are monitored.
 - Adina Edwards responded that the rooms are single occupancy. Tenants may have guests stay, but not live with them. Guests are allowed in the units, but not in the common area.
- A community member indicated she is happy that homeless people will have a place to stay.
- A community member stated that there has been huge misinformation from online platforms, including WeChat, and therefore committee members should only disseminate official information (e.g. meeting minutes) from RainCity Housing and the City of Richmond, who are verifiable sources.
 - Diana Bulley noted the meeting minutes are the public record of the committee's discussion and that they can be shared.
 - A community member asked if the meeting minutes will be translated.
 - Monica Bennington indicated the City would review the minute taking process, including translation, and report back at the next Community Advisory Committee.
 - A community member acknowledged WeChat caused misinformation and remarked translation would make the information more accessible.
- Adina Edwards commented that the temporary modular supportive housing will be people's homes, which will include: two meals per day, an Indigenous space, a kitchen, a common space and activities for tenants.
- A community member asked if there is an outdoor space with trees
 - Adina Edwards responded that there will be landscaping and seating outside.
 - Sean Spear added that 8-9 trees on the site have been preserved and landscaping will add more greenery.
- Karen Barclay asked if tenants have their own pets
 - Adina responded that it is a pet-friendly building.

5. Action Items and Next Steps

- **Action item:** Review meeting minute processes, including translation.
- **Action item:** Distribute the 24/7 RainCity Housing Society contact information to residents near the temporary modular supportive housing building.

The next Community Advisory Committee meeting will be scheduled shortly.

6. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:54 p.m.