

Alderbridge Supportive Housing Community Advisory Committee

June 13, 2019 - 6:00 p.m.
Multi-Purpose Room 1, City Centre Community Centre

In attendance:

Diana Bulley (Facilitator), Adina Edwards (RainCity Housing), Cody Spencer (City of Richmond), Sean Spear (RainCity Housing), Ivan Pak (Community Member), Sean Spear (RainCity Housing), David Zhou (Community Member), Tim Osiowy (Community Member), Ron Graham (City of Richmond), Jennifer Chow (Richmond RCMP), Emma MCGarry (RainCity Housing), Carmen Hall (BC Housing), and Monica Bennington (City of Richmond – Recorder)

Regrets:

Karen Barclay (Vancouver Coastal Health), Jamil Karim (City Centre Community Association), Julie Halfnights (Community Member), Jennifer Molto (Community Member)

1. Welcome and Introduction

- The Facilitator welcomed committee members to the meeting.

2. Action Items from Previous Meeting

- Cody Spencer (City of Richmond) stated that the link to RainCity Housing's virtual tour of the Alderbridge Supportive Housing was provided via email on May 17, 2019 and is on the City's website at <https://www.richmond.ca/plandev/socialplan/housing/hlstrategy/rapidresponse.htm>.
- Adina Edwards (RainCity Housing) stated that RainCity Housing's contact information, in both English and Chinese, has been distributed throughout the neighbourhood. Electronic versions were also distributed to surrounding strata councils. She encouraged the committee to share this information with their networks.

3. Updates and Discussion

Project Partner committee members (City of Richmond, RCMP, RainCity Housing Society) provided updates and discussed the Alderbridge Supportive Housing.

A. RainCity Housing

- Adina Edwards and Sean Spear (RainCity Housing) provided the following update:
 - The housing is fully occupied and the building management is operating smoothly.
 - The outside landscaping has been completed, including outdoor storage for tenant belongings.
 - Tenant meetings are held weekly and tenants are engaged and settling into their new homes. A number of community groups are supporting the housing by providing community programming. For example, Tapestry Church has started a community garden program and will be leading gardening groups once a week.

Richmond Food Security Society has provided seeds and other food items, which helps staff provide meals for the tenants. An Indigenous Cultural Liaison is engaging with the tenants and connecting them to the community.

- RainCity Housing has received two complaints involving situations where tenants have trespassed on an adjacent property. Staff had a conversation with these tenants and since then RainCity Housing has not received any complaints about trespassing regarding their tenants. When transitioning from living outside to inside, many tenants continue to spend most of their free time outdoors.
- RainCity Housing has also received one noise complaint. Staff now check the outside of the Alderbridge Supportive Housing every 30 minutes after 10:00 p.m. and have not received any additional complaints.
- RainCity Housing met with the Executive Inn and there were not any complaints received.
- A community member stated that it was positive to hear about RainCity Housing's response to complaints. The resident also noted that multiple bikes have been locked in front of the building, and asked if bikes could be stored behind the property fencing.
 - Adina Edwards (RainCity Housing) noted that a bike rack will be installed shortly, which will provide more on-site bike storage behind the property fencing.
- A community member asked if RainCity Housing has connected with the neighbouring Richmond Emmanuel Church.
 - Adina Edwards (RainCity Housing) noted that she has connected with the Church and they have offered to host a welcome lunch for the tenants.

B. BC Housing

- Carmen Hall (BC Housing) indicated that there are no new updates.
 - BC Housing is encouraging other communities to provide virtual tours of supportive housing, as Richmond's video has been a valuable resource for the community.

C. City of Richmond

- Cody Spencer (City of Richmond) indicated that there are no new updates.

D. Richmond RCMP

- Jennifer Chow provided the following update:
 - The RCMP has received calls related to the supportive housing. However, these calls have not been concerning and are similar to instances that happen in every residential building. There have been no emergency calls outside the building that have been related to tenants of the Alderbridge Supportive Housing. The RCMP continues to monitor and communicate closely with RainCity Housing staff.
 - The RCMP's interactions with the tenants have been positive.

E. Community Members

- A community member asked if assessments for additional supports, including employment and addictions services, will be conducted for tenants.
 - Adina Edwards (RainCity Housing) indicated that there are a variety of resources available to tenants. RainCity Housing encourages tenants to communicate their needs to staff. When tenants are ready, staff develop an individualized plan for them based on their unique goals. For example, a number of tenants are working

- part-time and others are involved in providing peer support for individuals involved in other RainCity programs.
- Sean Spear (RainCity Housing) indicated that staff use a case management database to track the goals of each tenant.
 - A community member stated that he requested to bring another neighbourhood resident, who is not a member of the Community Advisory Committee, to share observations of the neighbourhood. According to the Terms of Reference, neighbourhood residents are not permitted to present to the Community Advisory Committee. Therefore, the community member requested to share the list of concerns.
 - The Facilitator clarified that, according to the Terms of Reference, the purpose of the Committee meeting is to discuss items directly related to the Alderbridge Supportive Housing.
 - Adina Edwards (RainCity Housing) stated that prior to the meeting, staff reviewed the complaints sent by the neighbourhood resident and have verified that two complaints are related to the Alderbridge Supportive Housing tenants or their guests. RainCity Housing has explained how it responded to these specific complaints at this meeting. The other complaints were confirmed to not be related to supportive housing tenants.
 - A community member stated that during the supportive housing community consultation, the City stated that needle sweeps would occur. The community member has not seen this occur in the neighbourhood and would like to request needle-sweeps from the City.
 - Adina Edwards (RainCity Housing) stated that staff conduct three daily sweeps for the Alderbridge Supportive Housing property and a one-block radius around the site.
 - Cody Spencer (City of Richmond) stated that the City has a process in place for the safe disposal of needles. If residents find needle in a public space, they should call the City's Public Works Department for safe disposal at 604-270-8721. This information is posted on the City's website.
 - A community member stated they would like to review and discuss the list of concerns about the neighbourhood at the Community Advisory Committee meeting.
 - Sean Spear (RainCity Housing) acknowledged that a number of complaints have been received, but only two of the complaints have been related to the Alderbridge Supportive Housing tenants. RainCity Housing takes all complaints seriously and quickly addresses any concerns. More recently, the number of complaints received has slowed, and RainCity Housing hopes that complaints will continue to diminish as tenants settle into the Alderbridge Supportive Housing.
 - The Facilitator stated that residents are asked to contact RainCity Housing directly for any concerns. If there is an emergency issue, residents are asked to call the RCMP. If the complaint is related to the general neighbourhood and is not connected to the Alderbridge Supportive Housing, residents are asked to contact the City.
 - Adina Edwards (RainCity Housing) added that staff respond very quickly to complaint phone calls. For example, a complaint came in regarding tenants trespassing in a near-by hotel garbage room searching for cans. After receiving this

complaint, staff immediately went to the hotel to talk to the tenants. Adina explained that 'binning' was a major source of income for tenants in the past.

- Another community member stated that there is a high-level of suspicion in the neighbourhood and suggests that it will take time before trust is built between the Alderbridge Supportive Housing and the surrounding neighbourhood. The community member suggests that the neighbourhood could be more welcoming of the new tenants.

4. Action Items and Next Steps

- **Action item:** The City of Richmond will follow up with interested CAC members after the meeting to share information about established processes for needle disposal in Richmond.

5. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 pm.

Next meeting: It was decided that the next meeting will be scheduled for August.