

# **Richmond Temporary Modular Supportive Housing Community Advisory Committee**

May 7, 2019

Multi-Purpose Room 2, City Centre Community Centre

6:00 p.m.

## **In Attendance:**

Diana Bulley (Facilitator), Karen Barclay (Vancouver Coastal Health), Cody Spencer (City of Richmond), Jennifer Chow (RCMP), Adina Edwards (RainCity Housing), Jamil Karim (City Centre Community Association), Ron Graham (City of Richmond), Emma McGarry (RainCity Housing Society), Sean Spear (RainCity Housing Society), Carmen Hall (BC Housing), Tim Osiowy (Community Member), Ivan Pak (Community Member), David Zhou (Community Member), Julie Halfnights (Community Member), Jennifer Molto (Community Member), and Emma Lamperson (City of Richmond - Recorder).

## **1. Welcome and Introductions**

- Diana Bulley welcomed committee members to the meeting.

## **2. Update and Action Items**

- Cody Spencer (City of Richmond) announced that the meeting minutes for the first two meetings have been translated, as requested at the previous meeting. Meeting minutes can be found on the City website ([Richmond.ca/RapidResponsetoHomelessness](http://Richmond.ca/RapidResponsetoHomelessness)).
- A community member inquired if community members' names could be included in the meeting minutes for transparency.
  - Diana Bulley noted that no comments can be attributed to community members, as outlined in the Terms of Reference.
  - The committee decided that community members' names should be included in the attendance section of the meeting minutes, but not elsewhere.
- Sean Spear (RainCity Housing) stated that communication regarding RainCity Housing's contact information will be distributed to the neighbourhood at the end of May. The process may take longer due to translation.

## **3. Updates and Discussion**

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

## A) RainCity Housing

- Adina Edwards (RainCity Housing Society) provided the following update:
  - The modular supportive housing was fully tenanted on May 5, which was two days earlier than projected.
  - As of May 7, the City and RainCity Housing have received no complaints regarding the modular supportive housing.
  - The Poverty Response Committee has been an invaluable resource in getting the building ready.
- Sean Spear (RainCity Housing) provided the following update:
  - Politicians and media attended the modular supportive housing opening on April 12.
  - Committee members have had a chance to have a tour of the building. An online virtual tour has been created for the public and can be accessed at <https://youtu.be/j2Bhra51QBY>.
  - Last week, a vehicle drove past the building and took photos of staff. The license plate was not captured and it is hoped this is an isolated incident since it is intrusive and uncomfortable for residents and staff.
    - Jennifer Chow (RCMP) offered to look-up the license plate if this occurs again.
  - A community member would like to visit and get involved with the modular supportive housing and its residents.
    - Adina Edwards (RainCity Housing Society) noted that members of the public can submit proposals that she can bring to the residents for them to decide. She suggested that less intrusive activities outside of the building may be more favorable.
    - A community member noted that residents' privacy needs to be respected. Neighbours should be friendly and invite them to the neighbourhood.
    - Sean Spear (RainCity Housing) noted that event-based activities and food donations are good ideas.
    - A community member asked why food donations are needed if food is provided.
      - Sean Spear (RainCity Housing) responded that a light breakfast and one other meal a day are budgeted by BC Housing and the Foodbank has been supplementing food on an ongoing basis.

## B) Vancouver Coastal Health

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

C) BC Housing

- Carmen Hall (BC Housing) indicated there are no updates.

D) City of Richmond

- Cody Spencer (City of Richmond) indicated that the City's communication staff supported the opening and that the City continues to communicate with RainCity Housing regarding the ongoing management of the housing.

E) City Centre Community Centre

- Jamil Karim (City Centre Community Association) indicated that there has been an increase in the number of people experiencing homelessness using City Centre Community Centre's showers and common spaces in the past few months.
  - Cody Spencer (City of Richmond) responded that most tenants of the modular supportive housing will likely not be using the showers, as they have showers in their units. The City is updating its Homelessness Strategy and is working with the City Centre Community Centre regarding actions to enhance service provision at City facilities.

F) Richmond RCMP

- Jennifer Chow (RCMP) indicated there are no updates from the RCMP.

G) Community Members

- A community member commented that it is unfortunate the landscaping is not finished yet.
- A community member noticed that shopping carts have been left in the area.
  - Adina Edwards (RainCity Housing) stated that sometimes the shopping carts are left from the move-in or by people who do not live in the modular supportive housing.
  - Carmen Hall (BC Housing) and a community member suggested in returning the shopping carts to the appropriate stores or contacting the store because they might come pick up the carts.
- A community member indicated he shared the meeting minutes with a community group and there were no concerns.
- A community member mentioned that he knows someone who donates eggs and milk and asked if these types of donations would be helpful at the modular supportive housing.
  - Sean Spear and Adina Edwards (RainCity Housing) noted that eggs and milk can be accepted a day or two before the expiry date during the day or at night. No pre-arranged appointments are necessary.

## 5. Action Items and Next Steps

- **Action item:** The link to the virtual tour of the modular supportive housing is on YouTube and will be provided by RainCity Housing.
- **Action item:** The document providing RainCity's contact information will be printed and distributed prior to the next meeting.
- **Action Item:** If community members know of groups that would like to receive the document providing RainCity's contact information, they should contact Adina Edwards and Emma McGarry from RainCity Housing.

## 6. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m.