



tə cecəw

Temporary Modular Housing
Community Advisory Committee Meeting
Wednesday, September 19, 2018
Hillcrest Community Centre

Members Present:

Coast Mental Health
Vancouver Coastal Health
Little Mountain Neighbourhood House
Community Members
More than a Roof
City of Vancouver
Vancouver Police Department
BC Housing
City Heights
Emmanuel Baptist Church

1. Welcome and Introductions

Elder Jim Kew- The name of the site will be tə cecəw (The Beach). The name is significant to thousands of years of history, colonialism, and present reconciliation. The hope of the name is that it is carried forward for each person living at tə cecəw. Below is what will be shared on a plaque inside of the building for all residents to see:

“All humans are related. We are one extended family. You may not be Musqueam; but, because you live on Musqueam land, you live in a Musqueam Community. You are our relatives; we have obligations to you.

We ask you to share more than our land. We also ask you to share our law. From Northern California to the Alaska panhandle the Coastal Tribes of the North West Coast shared a belief known as the Soul Canoe. This belief is still Musqueam law.

The Soul Canoe is a metaphor about the journey of our immortal soul through eternity. We have been reincarnated many times, and will be reincarnated many more. We make that journey in our Soul Canoe.

Only you travel in your Soul Canoe. No one else can enter that sacred vessel. Only you direct the journey of your Soul Canoe.

When people gather, we each bring our Soul Canoe. The place we meet becomes our family beach. On that beach we share the warmth of loving hearts through words and advice.

What we share on that sacred beach is offered as a paddle for your Soul Canoe. Take

these paddles on your journey. Use them when you need a strong life direction. Consider this home your family beach. Share good advice and respect with your family, with your neighbours, on this beach. Each day here begins your new days' journey.”

2. Updates and Discussion

Community Member: When is it opening?

Program Manager: The plan is to move people in the first week of October. It will be a slow transition. Staff were in training this week and are excited for the opening.

Community Member: How have the tenants been selected?

Program Manager: We are working with BC Housing, Coast Mental Health's outreach team and Carnegie's outreach team.

BC Housing: People must be on supported housing registry.

Community Member: What is the length of tenancy?

Program Manager: Three years

Community Member: What happens after three years?

City of Vancouver: There could be an application to extend, but it is dependent on developer to extend after three years. The City has 1,400 units of supportive housing. It releases space in the housing list. In theory, the hope is to be able to house everyone in transitional housing into permanent housing.

More than a Roof: Is there a plan for permanent housing on the site?

City of Vancouver: I'm unsure. That will depend on the developer.

Community Member: Many people in the area are on the supportive housing list. Do people need to be on the supportive housing list to be considered?

BC Housing: The outreach team is specifically connecting with people in the neighbourhood to connect them to the supportive housing registry.

Community Member: What are the overall rules of being a tenant?

Program Manager: Everyone is assessed for suitability for living in the building. There are the same conditions as for any neighbour in a community. There is a good neighbour agreement, which asks people take ownership in ensuring that the space is safe and clean.

Everyone who is moving in is wanting to be an asset to the community and wanting to be welcomed. The transition from being homelessness to be housed is a huge, overwhelming transition. Another factor of accountability and support is that staff are onsite 24 hours a day, seven days a week. So much is about the relationships that we build both being in a

new space and becoming embedded in a community.

Community Member: There have been issues in the area. Clothes donation box is frequently emptied. If all of these people are homeless, do they know how to live together as neighbours? I am here to support the success for temporary housing.

Program Manager: For people who are in survival mode, housing provides these needs that were not being met when homeless. There is food, shelter, access to supports at this program. The hope is that the people who are moving in are known to staff and become embedded in the community. If an issue arises, it will be known and there will be a support mechanism and accountability with the program, that is not left on community members to respond to.

Coast: Contact the staff at the Coast Little Mountain site if there is ever an issue. It is very helpful to be contacted to be able to respond and address, if there is ever anything that comes up.

VPD: Donation bins have been an issue throughout the City of Vancouver. There are citizen perceptions of crime going up in areas with modular housing, however, there hasn't been any statistical increases in crime, for example in Marpole.

Community Member: My neighbour's bike has been stolen. Neighbours are worried about a potential increase in crime, will there be an increase in police presence?

Facilitator: For any concerns directly related to the building, please call the Coast onsite phone number. For concerns about general crime in the area, please contact VPD.

Community Member: If using the building number please don't use as replacement for VPD.

Coast: The experience at Coast's Dunbar housing site is that since the site had opened several years ago, it has been called less than 10 times by the community.

Community Member: It is very positive to have a direct line of communication.

Community Member: Will there be opportunities for neighbours to meet the new residents? The more spaces that we have to get to know each other, the better.

City of Vancouver: The ideal is for a proposal from a non-profit to work with the operator to generate a project to integrate people into the neighbourhood. The City has a Homelessness Action Week grant program with some funding set aside specifically to help fund neighbourhood welcome activities in the community around the modular buildings. Feel free to write email if interested in applying for our grant.

Community Member: Will housing be available to each person for just one year?

Coast: The project will be a three-year program. It all depends on the person and what makes sense for them.

Facilitator: The communities around other modular buildings have been quite active

with welcome activities and donations and there has been a need for a single point of contact at the building to manage and facilitate these activities. Is there someone the community can contact if they would like to donate or plan an activity?

Coast: Feel free to contact Susan Hancock at Coast as the best point person for updates with grant.

1. Tour of tō cecəw site

2. Action Items

Action Items
-Coast: Distribute onsite building phone number residents can call for anything related to the building
-Coast: Distribute Susan Hancock's email to the CAC members to coordinate any donations, etc.