



**Temporary Modular Housing | tə cecəw
Community Advisory Committee (CAC) Meeting Notes**

February 20, 2019, 5:30 to 6:20 pm | VPL Terry Salman Branch

1. Welcome and Introductions

- a) Facilitator wished the CAC members a happy new year and reminded them that the group last convened on November 20, 2018.
- b) Facilitator introduced the new notetaker. The role of the notetaker is to ensure that an accurate record of the discussion will be recorded. The meeting notes will be posted on the City of Vancouver and Coast Mental Health websites.

2. Updates and Discussions

a) BC Housing

- BC Housing reported that the action item from the last meeting regarding sidewalk repair has been passed along to the City of Vancouver and is in the queue.
 - **Additional information from Coast Mental Health:** The sidewalk right in front of the tə cecəw building and City Heights on East 37th Avenue needs to be fixed. The City has acknowledged the need for sidewalk repair and the request is in the queue.
 - **Comment from Community Member:** Someone is shoveling snow off of the whole perimeter, this is a first.
 - **Comment from City of Vancouver:** Last meeting was a good reminder to Holborn, the property owner.
 - **Comment from Community Member:** [Snow shoveling] is a good benefit to the neighbourhood.

b) Coast Mental Health

- Coast Mental Health reported that there were a few instances of people filming and recording the building. In one instance, there was someone filming into a tenant's unit, which was disturbing. The building manager reached out to the Vancouver Police Department and a community partner who was able to address this issue.
- According to CMH, the concerning part was not only the violation of privacy and safety for tenants, but the fact that the person filming was intentionally trying to catch the tenants doing something "wrong". The vigilantism was disappointing, and building staff have made tenants aware of this occurring and told tenants to be careful and keep their blinds closed. It was a difficult conversation to have with the tenants, as everyone in the building had to acknowledge the presumption from the public that the tenants are doing something "wrong".
- CMH expressed that these are people in their homes who are expecting to have their blinds open like everyone else and not be filmed.
- **Question from Community Member:** Was the person who did that caught in the act? And did they actually go into the property and into the rooms?
 - **Response from Coast Mental Health:** They filmed from the parking lot.
 - **Question from Community Member:** So it was a public space then?
 - **Response from Coast Mental Health:** We looked into that, it is not a public space.
 - **Comment from Community Member:** So they can get a telephoto lens and film from a public space.
- **Question from Community Member:** Do you have security cameras?
 - **Comment from Coast Mental Health:** We were able to review the footage and follow up with this neighbour who was filming.
- **Question from City of Vancouver:** I know that there are some people here who are on Block Watch. Do incidents like these happen in your homes?
 - **Response from Community Member:** I have seen some people walking around and taking pictures outside people's homes, but it is often the bushes. They may simply be photographing flowers.

- **Response from Community Member** I have never seen [anything like the incidents described]. A security company called my house and said they are going to come take pictures of my home. I said it was okay, I was not going to be home.
- **Comment from Coast Mental Health:** We know that [the videographer] was intending to find something incriminating.
- **Question from Community Member:** Was he a known figure?
 - **Comment from City of Vancouver:** The fact that it has happened more than once is a good reminder to everyone in the neighbourhood, whether they are TMH tenants, homeowners or renting, to be careful.
- **Question from Community Member:** Last time the building was not fully occupied. Has that changed?
 - **Response from Coast Mental Health:** We are now fully occupied.

c) City of Vancouver

- The final TMH building is going to be opened in next couple of weeks (Union and Gore). That will bring us to 606 units opened in this funding cycle.
- **Question from Community Member:** Are the other sites occupied?
 - **Response from City of Vancouver:** Yes. The Heather Lands site opened on 37th and Heather in January. At the end of January another site in the Olympic Village opened with 52 units. This will be the tenth site to open.
- **Question from Community Member:** What about the double set downtown?
 - **Response from City of Vancouver:** Cambie, yes. It opened in December.
- **Question from Community Member:** Has there been any negative news?
 - **Response from City of Vancouver:** There was [a media piece that came out recently](#) about the Reidman Residence, which was the first TMH site to open. CTV did a good follow up with the City, the operator, the School Board and the VPD. It was a positive story that concluded that fears did not materialize.

- **Question from Community Member:** Can tenants apply to move to another place across town?
 - **Response from City of Vancouver:** Each operator operates their own building(s) and people could move between them, if needed.
 - **Response from BC Housing:** Tenants who want to move would go through BC Housing Coordinated Access. One of the reasons for moving could be that their services are in another part of town.

- **Request from Community Member:** I just wanted to say that the parking lot at City Heights gets quite congested with hospital vehicles. I want to put in a request with the City of Vancouver that there be a cut-out. We have lives and work to go to, and we are waiting for our parking spot. This has happened to me on three different occasions.
 - **Question from City of Vancouver:** What are you requesting?
 - **Response from Community Member:** Could there be a sidewalk cut-out for emergency vehicles – a loading zone. It gets quite congested in that parking lot.
 - **Comment from Coast Mental Health:** We have had some issues with that sidewalk. People with wheelchairs have difficulty with it.
 - **ACTION ITEM:** City of Vancouver will explore the possibility of creating a cut out to improve access for emergency vehicles.

d) Vancouver Coastal Health

- The Vancouver Coastal Health CAC representative was absent.

e) Vancouver Police Department

- Aside from what Coast Mental Health mentioned, there was another person taking pictures of the building itself. It did not look like this person was filming, but it was hard to tell. The VPD obtained some coverage of him and have circulated this coverage throughout the department. The photographer is not known. It could be an architect [interested in the building design], but we cannot be sure.

- There have been thirteen calls for service from the building, but nothing of significance. Seven are missing persons reports. The others requested

assistance with arguments or disputes in the building. There have been no arrests.

- **Question from Community Member:** Do tenants have a curfew?
 - **Response from Coast Mental Health:** No.
 - **Response from City of Vancouver:** My understanding is that BC Housing has wellness checks. Everyone needs to be seen within a certain time frame. If they have not been seen, they have to be checked in on or a missing person report will be made. It is a good thing to checking in on the wellbeing of their tenants.
 - **Comment from Vancouver Police Department:** Sometimes we receive calls from worried family members and our role is one of compassion. We just want to get a hold of the people the people we receive calls about and ask them to connect with the people who are concerned about them.
 - **Question from Community Member:** But tenants are not asked to go to VCH for a health or mental check in order to live in the building?
 - **Response from the City of Vancouver:** Staff are well aware of tenant needs, and are there to support tenants on a case by case basis.
 - **Comment from Coast Mental Health:** It is housing for people who were homeless, there are many services or programs offered.

f) Community Members

- The Facilitator went around the table and asked community members whether they have anything to share.
- **Question from Community Member (to Coast Mental Health):** Would you like to share the good news about the weekend cook?
 - **Comment from Coast Mental Health:** Our weekend cook resigned. Luckily next door at City Heights there is a fabulous cook that we hired on. We're really grateful and it has been a lot of fun.

- **Comment from Community Member:** Nothing from my side honestly. It is good to hear the good news, unfortunate about some of the news. I am glad the place is full.

- **Comment from Mount Pleasant Neighbourhood House:** We had a meeting for HAW (Homelessness Action Week), the only date that is confirmed is the barbecue. We have a gardening workshop planned for April and right now are just really focused on getting the garden beds out and are trying to get them integrated into the Riley Park Garden. The barbecue is planned for May. We are getting donations from the welcome packages [from several local businesses].
 - **Comment from Community Member:** Winston Meats is good too. You could also try to get tickets from Nat Bailey Stadium or Van Dusen Gardens.
 - **Comment from Coast Mental Health:** We did get donations from Van Dusen and Nat Bailey Stadium.
 - **Question from Facilitator:** Are the barbecue and gardens a community event?
 - **Response from Mount Pleasant Neighbourhood House:** We are connecting with certain community members, such as students from Tupper Secondary and different chefs from different agencies.
 - **Comment from Community Member:** How will you spread the event information to neighbours?
 - **Response from Mount Pleasant Neighbourhood House:** There will be another meeting in March where we determine how to share the information. The event is more for the tenants.

- **Comment from Community Member:** The clothing boxes from 33rd Avenue have been removed and now there is a lot less disturbance. I am sorry to hear [about the photographer/videographer]. Whatever that guy is doing is quite disturbing. On other side of 33rd Avenue we did not notice anything. Because we have been [to CAC meetings] 3 or 4 times already, how can we distribute what we've been doing so we can ease people's minds?
 - **Response from City of Vancouver:** There are publicly posted online meeting minutes. Anyone who is interested in reading them will need to be directed. If you like, you can go to the website and print out the

notes and bring copies to your neighbours, or send links. How do you communicate with your networks?

- **Response from Community Member:** We talk to each other. If you tell them to go online, by the time you finish talking they will not remember. If you need them to go to specific sites, would anyone expend the energy to do that? It may be killing some trees, but could we print them out?
 - **Response from City of Vancouver:** We would be happy to bring 15 copies to the next meeting. What would you suggest?
 - **Response from Community Member:** Distribute the notes to local neighbours so that they do not get worried.
 - **Response from City of Vancouver:** The CAC process is this body. You were selected because you are Block Watch and community partners. The best, most efficient way would be to direct people to the website. If you have other ideas, we are willing to explore them.
- **Comment from Community Member:** Four or five people come to me and say that there have been more break-ins since the building opened. People have had their windows, front doors and cars broken into. There was a Block Watch email about car break-ins. I do not think it is anything related, but thought that I should bring it up.
 - **Response from Vancouver Police Department:** Break-ins such as these distribute throughout the City. There is a heat map that shows where things spread and are concentrated. Right now there is a crew of Surrey guys that have been in the City doing a number of break-ins, including houses in this neighbourhood.
 - **Comment from Community Member:** It was our house.
 - **Comment from Vancouver Police Department:** It is a group of guys who commit crimes such as stealing copper pipes. I do not think it has anything to do with this area.
 - **Comment from Community Member:** Overall, this continues to be a positive experience. One happened back in mid-January. I was mentioning to the tē cecaw building manager that on January 12, a woman got out of the building early in morning, was in a car for a while, then went back into the building. My wife and son found a discarded syringe and could not tell

whether syringe was related to resident or not. The tæ cæcæw building manager has been doing a good job of making sure there are no syringes around.

- **Comment from Coast Mental Health:** We are hoping that that is just a one off. If anyone were to find a syringe, there are a couple of numbers you can call to make sure they are disposed of safely.
- **Comment from City of Vancouver:** 311 being one of them. They can call Spikes on Bikes.

- **Comment from Community Member:** The folks that are using the grass area west of the building walk their dogs and throw some balls. Generally, it is fine, but it there is a lot of activity at midnight and beyond. We have not made any noise complaints, but other neighbours are complaining. That was not happening until recently.
 - **Question from Community Member:** Does the building allow dogs?
 - **Response from Coast Mental Health:** We do allow dogs. At present we have 5 dogs.
 - **Comment from Holborn Group:** We would discourage any kind of trespassing.
 - **Comment from Community Member:** I think maybe for the neighbours, it is just a matter of saying “try to keep the volume down.” That is what I think is driving the neighbours crazy. Neighbours have reported noise complaints to me. Past 10 or 11 pm, the bylaws say that people should not be making a ton of noise.
 - **Comment from Coast Mental Health:** Thanks for bringing that to our attention.
 - **Comment from Community Member:** That is feedback. We are really happy with how things are going. I am glad people are getting the support they need.

- **Comment from Community Member:** I said what I had to say already. I am happy that the weekend cook is part of the community. He is quite a gregarious man.

g) Holborn Group

- Holborn Group reported that there has been quite a lot of activity on the site. They are working with the City quite closely and want to break ground this year.

- **Question from Community Member:** Are you breaking ground right along Main?
 - **Response from Holborn Group:** There are a few sites. We have submitted a few permits applications to the City. We are hoping to begin soon and part of this includes excavating the new streets, and a site on Main close to the Mosaic building. First will be a non-market building, another BC Housing Building.
 - **Question form Community Member:** There is a sales office at 33rd and Ontario. Will that be a building soon?
 - **Response from Holborn Group:** That is a temporary building, tied into the delivery of the non-market buildings and the whole site.

h) Facilitator adjourned the meeting at 6:19 pm. The next meeting will be scheduled for April and an invite will be sent out to CAC members as soon as possible.

3. Action Items and Next Steps

Action Items
<ul style="list-style-type: none">The City of Vancouver will explore the request from community members to create a sidewalk cutout/loading zone for emergency vehicles to alleviate parking lot congestion at City Heights.