

Temporary Modular Housing
tə cecəw
Community Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

October 15, 2019, 5:30 to 6:30 pm | Hillcrest – Terry Salman Branch Library

1. Welcome and Introductions

a) The facilitator welcomed the group.

2. Review of Action Items from Previous Meeting

Action Items	Responsible	Status
1. The tə cecəw building manager will identify the source of cigarette butts and ensure the person stops throwing them out the window.	1. Coast Mental Health	1. Done. Everyone on that line of the building knows and will ensure nothing will be thrown out windows.
2. The next meeting will be held in September.	2. City of Vancouver / Coast Mental Health	2. Meeting held in October due to room availability.
3. The Facilitator will confirm the groups interest in meeting frequency at the next Committee meeting.	3. Facilitator	3. The group agreed to meet every four months going forward.

3. Updates and Discussion

a) Coast Mental Health

- We've received a handful of calls about the noise taking place around the bike rack late at night. Also, some calls about loud music during the day and overnight. We talked to tenants about the noise bylaws and expectations of reasonable quiet

during the day. There was a call about someone using drugs in front of the City Heights building. It came to the building's attention because this individual left their safe-injection materials in the front areas of the building and tenants discovered it the following morning. Staff reviewed camera footage and followed up with the tenant about not using drugs outdoors. There have not been any other incidents since.

- We got an email about a car break in, but we don't know who it was or if it was related to the building in any way. We also got a call about a mail theft from a neighbour. We were sent some video that his camera took of the person, and we identified that the individual was a guest of our building. The information has been passed onto police and the individual has been banned from the building.
- Lastly, we got a call from City Heights about used needles that were found on someone's patio next door to us. We ensured the safe disposal and haven't had any further reports. We continue to do walkabouts in the area and neighbourhood, it's not often that we find safe injection supplies.
- The building is celebrating the one-year anniversary on Thursday at 10:30am and Minister Selena Robinson will be attending, which is great. We are sending invitations out and I think anybody here who would be interested in attending is more than welcome to join us in the celebration.
 - **Community Member 1:** I'll try and tell the Little Mountain Residential Care and Housing Society about it. It would be nice to bring the Director.
 - **Community Member 2:** I heard this building would be in place for three years plus. Is that still the timeline?
 - **Coast Mental Health:** Yes.

b) BC Housing:

- There's a report on Modular Resident Outcomes that was recently released. It's an Outcomes Report for the residents which addresses things such as increase in services, how housing has stabilized or destabilized, etc. I've looked at a few and they are all very positive.

c) City of Vancouver:

- Just a reminder that not all incidents are connected to the building. If things are away from the building and not on the property, reach out to the appropriate contacts. Like the needles found a few blocks away, for example, reach out to the Needle Van (604-657-6561) or call 311.

d) Vancouver Coastal Health:

- *Not present*

e) Vancouver Police Department:

- I looked at calls for service to the building since May 1 and there were 31 calls for service - 22 of which were Missing Persons reports. Nothing of any significance as far as the VPD is concerned for the building.
- The neighbourhood in general there has had sporadic theft from autos, as well as from mail. Those are trends that pick up in later summer. We've seen people going door to door taking mail out of mailboxes, and there are also "Package Pirates" as we call them. It was a big thing a few years ago and then it kind of died off. It's more frequent again now for some reason. Lots of people have video surveillance on their houses, so we're looking at those videos for various things.
 - **Community Member 3:** We've seen quite a few calls for service. We live just across the street from a construction condo site, and the VPD seems to have been pretty active. We spoke with VPD and they said it's very popular across home construction sites.
 - **Vancouver Police Department:** When it gets to the stage when appliances and things are going in, that's when it's often popular. In the early hours of the morning officers are out looking for people trying to break into houses or cars. Theft from auto is the number one property crime.

f) Community Members:

- **Community Member 1:** My car was broken into and we saw a cyclist going by when I looked out due to my car alarm going off. Around 3:00am. We cannot say it was a tenant, it's just something that happened in the neighbourhood. I called ICBC, not the police.
 - **Vancouver Police Department:** It should always be reported to the police – call 911. ICBC does not give us that information. Always call 911 if it's an active crime. Especially if you saw the guy in the street and it just happened.
 - **Facilitator:** An information sheet was created by the City of Vancouver that can show people exactly who to call for what and that resource could be really great for people here. It would be a great channel to use and we could circulate that with the meeting notes for next time. It explains the difference between 311 and 911, and provides some other contacts with clarity.
- **Community Member 2:** I've also seen mail theft, but I haven't even thought to link it to the building, which makes sense. There's lots of videos circulating. Not related to the building, but just something to note. It's with the Block Watch. There just seems to be a rise in general. We got an email last week, and there were four videos from incidents attached to that. Also, will more modular housing in general be coming across the city?

- **City of Vancouver:** There's a site at the Nanaimo Skytrain station that's being considered. But the 600 units that were approved a few years ago, that's been met.
- **Community Member 3:** I talked to neighbours to canvas how things are going, and overall it's been quieter as the weather has gotten cooler. It's a lot quieter.
- Some neighbours brought up that later in the evening folks are getting into cars out front for a period of time, and then going back into the building. Neighbours thought that was strange. I have no context.
- Another comment was dogs barking. No concept as to whether they're dogs from the building or not, but it's spotted next to the building that appears to be a popular place for people to bring their dogs. That's all from within the last six weeks or so. I haven't experienced those, but those are neighbourhood comments.
- **Community Member 4:** Just noise complaints, more or less near the bicycle area. Or sorting cans at 3:00am. Will you be moving the bike racks?
 - **Coast Mental Health:** We're looking at it, but it's not as easy as it might seem. There's no good spot. We're thinking about putting up a partition or structure to help reduce how much the noise carries. But if anyone has any ideas around materials or structures that would work well, then please let us know. We are looking to see how we can reduce the noise around that area because we are aware that it's causing lots of noise. How long does the noise last?
 - **Community Member 4:** I'm not sure. Just very late at night at the bike rack typically during the same timeframe.
 - **Coast Mental Health:** We've told people they have to be mindful of the good neighbour agreement with regard to noise, so people who bin and are sorting through their items, we've been talking to them. Some are used to doing that activity at night, but if it's causing a disturbance it's something they agreed when they moved in to be good neighbours - to reduce noise and disruption. So having a continual conversation will be something we can do. Or we can talk to them about sorting their items elsewhere.
 - **Community Member 4:** I think just having a conversation about it could be sufficient. We're also thankful that when there was drug paraphernalia around, there was an immediate response. We appreciate that.
 - **Community Member 3:** It's great to hear the responsiveness, and we all want to be good neighbours. We're grateful for people responding, and we appreciate you working with residents to be good neighbours.
- **Community Member 1:** I'm a Director of an organization that provides elderly housing care, and it would be great if our Executive Director could be in touch with

the building manager, so as neighbours we can connect. Another point - I live to the north side of 33rd avenue and before there were clothes collection boxes and now they're gone and we don't see people roaming around anymore. It's quieter there now. In general the outside of the area seems okay.

g) Little Mountain Neighbourhood House:

- We had a BBQ without it being a BBQ because there was rain, in the middle of September. We hosted an all-candidates meeting about 'Eat, Think, Vote'. We got funding from Food Secure Canada to host this for the community and residents. I thought it went really well. Very well attended and it was letting people know about the election coming up, and about voting as well. And raising awareness around food security issues.
- The gardening program at the building is winding down and we have five boxes in front so maybe we'll make it three so there's better wheelchair access. Now a few other departments will be working on a regular Tuesday with the building manager on different activities - card games, board games and others during that time slot. We'd like a regular series of activities.

- o **Community Member 4:** The garden out front looks great.

- **Little Mountain Neighbourhood House:** There's a soil scientist and a master composter who has been helping with planting, weeding and harvesting. Next year we want to look more into meals from the garden, and teaching the residents healthy meals and food options that they can make in their homes. It's harder to get community engagement, and we want to do what makes sense for them.
- **Coast Mental Health:** The garden has been such a successful project. Even though the tenants aren't participating much, there is nonetheless an active appreciation for the work that's being done out there, and it really is impactful to them to know that people are there taking care of it, and doing it for them. The tenants appreciate that act very much.
- **Little Mountain Neighbourhood House:** It creates a lovely seating area there, and people can appreciate being around that even if they aren't participating in tending or contributing to the garden.
- **Community Member 4:** Some candidates from parties were invited to the BBQ event that you mentioned, and a few people showed up which was great. It was a little overwhelming for people, but it was a big deal.

h) Additional Comments:

- **Facilitator:** Thank you for all of your comments and updates. Now we should address how often everyone would like to meet going forward. How do people feel about a quarterly basis? Or on an as-needed basis? Or once or twice a year?

- **Community Member 1:** Maybe three times a year? Every four months?
- **Community Member 2:** I think there's a lot to talk about, and these opportunities give visibility to things being addressed, so I agree that twice a year isn't enough, but three times a year could be good.
- **Community Member 3:** Every three months sounds great to me as well.
- **Facilitator:** Sounds great. We will see everyone in February then. Thank you all for coming, we look forward to seeing you next year.

Action Items	Responsible
Circulate City of Vancouver contact document	City of Vancouver / Facilitator
Circulate BC Housing outcomes report	BC Housing