



Kwayatsut Community Advisory Committee Meeting Notes May 3, 2018

Location: 2465 Fraser Street, Vancouver, BC

Invitees Attend: **Bold Names** indicate in attendance
Community Representative:

Jocelyn Hamel	MPNH
Bill Briscall	MPNH
Leyda Molner	Kingsgate Mall
Neil Wyles	MPBIA
Tina Tews	Boys and Girls Club
Tanniar Leba	La Boussole
Don Gardener	Strata/Resident
J-M Toriel	Resident
Megan Reiter	Resident
Ed Henderson	Resident
Jaydene Cormier	Resident
Darcy Riddell	Resident
Don Doucette	Adult Tenant Rep

Partner Representatives

Michelle Vernooy	City of Vancouver
Alison Smith	VPD
Jose Abundo	VPD
Chris Taulu	Community Policing Center
Partap Sahota	Community Policing Center
Jim Easte	Community Policing Center
Darryl Newton	Community Policing Center
Teresa Campos	VCH-Raven Song
Justin Loveless	VCH-Raven Song

Pacific Community Resource Services Rep

Deb Anderson	PCRS
Zach Batalden	BYRC Youth Housing Program

Vancouver Native Housing Society

Dave Eddy	CEO
Alice Sundberg	Acting COO
Alena Pacuchova	Property Manager
Iga Osiecki	Supportive Building Manager
Kayla Heald	Program Coordinator

1. Approval of Agenda
2. Approval of Previous Minutes
3. Partner Updates
4. Successes
5. Action Items
6. Other Business
7. Next Meeting

Note: These notes have been prepared to capture the essence of the meeting and are not intended to a verbatim record. Community member advice/questions are noted in bold italics.

The meeting was called to order at 5:45 pm by chair Alena Pacuchova

1. **Approval of agenda.** Agenda moved by Don Gardner
2. **Approval of Minutes.** Alena moved to accept the minutes.

3. Partner Updates:

a. VNHS

- VNHS has some vacancies and has been working with BC Housing to select suitable candidates for the vacant units
- The higher vacancy rate was the result of youth participants who aged out of the housing program; some youth have been housed in VNHS units to allow them to stay in the same community and participate in programs offered by VNHS and BYRC
- The vacant units are turn over quickly
- The building has been transferred over AHMA from April 1, 2017
- There have been changes in some positions:
 - i. Alice Sundberg is the acting COO until a permanent COO is selected
 - ii. Iga Osiecki has been promoted to Supportive Building Manager position in October 2017. Iga brings a wealth of knowledge from her previous positions in the building that she can benefit from in her new role
- Program Updates:
 - i. There are regular monthly programs and seasonal programs for all residents in the building (VNHS tenants and youth program participants)
 - ii. Some continual monthly programs including Literacy and computer skills, Art Programs, Massage Therapy, Dinner Program, Coffee Club, etc.
 - iii. Seasonal Programs include Garden Program, Christmas and Thanksgiving Dinner, Aboriginal Day BBQ, Job Fairs, work training opportunities through MP or Work BC etc.
 - iv. VNHS holds weekly and monthly meetings with partners
- STEP Program:
 - i. VNHS has been participating in the program
 - ii. The program has started in the partnership between BC Housing and Carnegie Outreach to relocate qualified tenants from supportive housing buildings to subsidized housing buildings
 - iii. A few tenants have been referred to the program coordinators who work closely with them to find a suitable unit (s) with other housing provider

- VNHS has participated in BC Housing case study series to highlight housing providers and programs that serve Indigenous women, youth, and families who are in need of housing support. The study is posted at <https://www.bchousing.org/research-centre/library/indigenous-peoples/bk-case-study-vancouver-native-housing-society&sortType=sortByDate>
- MPNH has partnered with VNHS to create the Brunch program that runs every Monday
 - i. The partnership which started from a breakfast program over 4 years ago has evolved into a more robust program that incorporates cultural and community connections, and health and wellness strategies. Many tenants and volunteers have been participating in this program that increase mental wellness and mitigate substance use. Due to lack of funding, VNHS along with MPNH is looking into other funding options to continue with this program.

b. BYRC

- Staffing Changes :
 - i. Zach Batalden is now Manager, Vancouver Housing and Transition Programs, overseeing Kwayatsut and other housing projects
 - ii. Paul Cartier went away to Keremeos to oversee the new residential substance use treatment program. He will be coming back to Kwayatsut in September 2018
 - iii. Sharon Milewski has been acting the youth program at the building
- BYRC has added Housing Youth Workers and Overnight Youth Supervisor that helps with reducing critical and other incidents
- BYRC will be celebrating 19 years of providing services to youth, preparation for this celebration is underway. Alice has suggested the Art exhibit for 19th birthday party, each place is story of each youth going through different stages, Vancouver Foundation
- Strengthening partnership with VCH
 - i. VCH will be providing treatment program at BYRC Wednesday to Sunday
 - ii. We will have the youth participate in the curriculum in the morning and then treatment program in the afternoon
 - iii. Two clinical staff members will be on site – providing mental health and physical health assistance
- The Centre hours will be extended to 7pm weekdays for an extra 5 hours per week
 - i. Also looking into other grants to stay open on weekends.
- Pathways program has been moved to site in Chinatown
- BC Youth & Care Network might take up the space at the center, currently in conversation
- Housing : Some of the youth that aged out had transferred over to the adult units (VNHS)
 - i. There have been 6 new houses added to PCRS
 - ii. The Housing First program, and the continuation of moving youth between different buildings within PCRS programs
 - iii. This will help with the youth transition better, it is not a long term solution, but it helps the youth continuation with the community

c. City of Vancouver

- Commercial retail units are almost all occupied, La Boussole vacated the unit
- Tenant improvement work is underway for new CRU's
- Abandoned building beside the Kwayatsut building has become tent city; the space is monitored and locks on gates have been added to prevent individuals coming in
- COV will look into this problem, as we need to secure the space
- It has been suggested to call 311
- Marijuana Dispensary is open in near by mall; its not allowed within a certain proximity to the Youth Centre
- The complaints have been raised by the community partners to begin immediate enforcement against the property owner
- The bus stop area in the front of CRU's is often full of debris
- VNHS has been cleaning the area on the regular basis; power-washing on need basis
- VNHS is looking for more cooperation from CRU's to keep their surrounding areas clean

4. Action Items

- None

5. Other Business

- None

6. Next Meeting

There being no more items to discuss, the meeting was adjourned to 6:30 pm. Next meeting is proposed to be held on Thursday May 2, 2019.