



# Kwayatsut Community Advisory Committee Meeting Notes April 23<sup>rd</sup> 2015

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**Date:** 5/19/2015

**Location:** Kwayatsut, 2465 Fraser St. Vancouver BC

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**Invitees Attend: Bold names indicate in attendance**

## **Community Representatives**

- Jocelyne Hamel MPNH
- Bill Briscall MPNH
- Leyda Molner Kingsgate Mall
- **Lynn Warwick** MPBIA
- Tina Tews Boys & 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
- Sam Wood Youth Tenant Rep
- Don Doucette Adult Tenant Rep

## **Partner Representatives**

- Michelle Vernooy *City of Vancouver*
- **Vickie Morris (alternate)** *City of Vancouver*
- Ali Gailus *VPD*
- **Jose Abundo** *VPD*
- Chris Taulu *Community Policing Centre*
- **Partap Sahota** (Alternate) *Community Policing Centre*
- **Jim Easte** *Community Policing Centre*
- **Teresa Campos** *VCH-Raven Song*
- **Justin Sekiguchi** *BC Housing*

## **Pacific Community Resource Services Rep**

- Allison Parker BYRC
- **Paul Chartier** *BYRC Youth Housing Program*

## **Vancouver Native Housing Society Representatives**

- **Shelly Hill** COO
  - **Jack Spitz** *Property Manager*
  - **Cecilia Henry** *Tenant Support Worker*
  - **Tamara Stremble** *Building Manager*
  - **Justine Smoke** *Community Outreach Coordinator/Facilitator*
  - **Robert Wilmot** *Consultant*
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1. Approval of Minutes
2. Partner Updates
3. Successes
4. Action Items
5. Other Business
6. Next Meeting



# Kwayatsut Community Advisory Committee Meeting Notes April 23<sup>rd</sup> 2015

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

**1. Approval of Minutes.** Minutes approved.

**2. Partner Updates**

**VNHS-**

- The building is fully occupied and there have not been any major issues.
- Programs are in place including:
  - Computer and Gym are open;
  - Gardening and health and wellness programs;
  - Peer support programs;
  - Art program (the bike room has been turned into an art room);
  - Tea with Elders;
  - Budgeting and computer workshops;
  - Beading workshops;
  - Bible Study Group.
- The Tenant Support Workers have caseloads and are providing tenants with individualized support.
- There haven't been any big issues and there has been lots of positive feedback from tenants.

**BC Housing-**

- The move in process for tenants has been very seamless and BC Housing says "Keep up the good work". The BC Housing Health and Housing services team Coordinator been working with the tenant support workers from VNHS and PCRS and has said this has been going really well. BC Housing has been "hearing good things are going on in the building".

**City of Vancouver-**

- Counsellor Geoff Meggs has written a letter and advises 3 CRUs have been rented and 1 remains available. As the building is under the Property Endowment Funding, the city requires that the spaces be rented at least at a break-even level.
- Comment was made about the whale sandblasted into the sidewalk around the building and that the city will be requiring other sandblasting artwork in other new building sites. The whale was created by an Aboriginal youth involved with BYRC.
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**BYRC-**

- BYRC held an Open House celebration in the youth centre, on the closed off section of Fraser Street and in Sahalli Park on Friday April 1. The event was extremely successful and very well attended by neighbours, community members, service providers, tenants and youth.
- Good quality live entertainment was provided by the youth and it was well received.
- There was a community cleanup on the following day involving youth and 100 volunteers from Starbucks. The cleanup extended for 2 blocks beyond the Kwayatsut site.
- Some youth have moved out and in response to a question from a community member "Does BYRC follow up on youth who move out?" BYRC's rep noted that follow up does occur if the youth gives permission for follow up. Typically the youth will be well known to



## Kwayatsut Community Advisory Committee Meeting Notes April 23<sup>rd</sup> 2015

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BYRC and there is a good relationship however in this situation there was not a relationship and the youth did not want any follow up from BYRC. Interviews are underway for new youth participants.

### **VPD-**

- The VPD had contact with 2 homeless persons, one of whom was welcoming and receptive of assistance however the other person declined any help.
- The Government of BC is dealing with the Pharmacy that the community has previously raised as a concern.
- The VPD received a complaint of graffiti on East 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue though their files did not indicate previous reports and the VPD reminds citizens to call in all concerns.
- VPD is responding to concerns that some people are using Robson Park as a “shooting gallery.”

### **CPC-**

- The CPC left information with East 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue residents on how they can call in concerns around graffiti and other issues.
- CPC requests the CAC consider holding CAC meetings on a bi monthly basis.
- Discussion held on this request and the Facilitator will survey all CAC members via email and advise CAC of the outcome.
- Also to be considered is changing the meeting time from 5:00pm to 5:30pm.

### **BC Housing**

- Have you seen any increase in phone calls or reports since the opening of the building?

### **VPD-**

- No.

### **BC Housing-**

- Would VPD be able to have a report about the proximity around the building that would show a trend in the police calls for the next meeting?

### **VPD-**

- If possible. But we have to get that kind of report cleared.

### **BC Housing-**

- We have heard how things have been good here but would be better if we could provide a hard copy with the numbers to back that up. Things have been going well.

### **VPD-**

- Will talk to the analyst to see what can be released.

### **VCH-**

- The VCH Outreach team has not yet visited Kwayatsut.
- VNHS staff informed they are in contact with Heidi and the team will be attending Kwayatsut on May 5<sup>th</sup>.

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## **3. Successes**

### **BYRC-**

- In addition to above, BYRC reports it had great success on the City’s Green Initiative. BYRC hired a social enterprise to do their recycling. They scored 115/127 points on the recycling activities at the Open House. 88% of materials were recycled and only 7.5 kilograms of materials was “garbage”.
  - VCH is now providing youth mental health services to youth at BYRC.
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## Kwayatsut Community Advisory Committee Meeting Notes April 23<sup>rd</sup> 2015

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### 3. Action Items- VNHS-

- Tenant Survey: As mentioned in VNHS report earlier, tenants provided very positive feedback in the survey. They find the building to be very nice and clean, the place very comfortable and the staff/other tenants to be friendly. The areas to improve were “more Programming & Access to lounge and computers” (TSW’s and the Program have answered those concerns). Tenants wanted programming such as Life skills, monthly resident advisory committee, (they have started a Resident Advisory Committee), and they have created the mandate for the RAC: “Residents building a safer, healthier, and informed community to enhance the quality of living at Kwayatsut”. The committee is open to both adult and youth tenants.

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### 4. Other Business

- Questions were raised around VNHS’s position on the medical marijuana dispensary in the neighbourhood and the response provided was if it is a medical situation, that’s what it is.
- City of Vancouver made mention of CRU’s and that the Property Endowment Fund will not lease to a Check Cashing Store or a convenience store because of the association to crime. “You want 10 Broadway Youth Resources. [sic] You do not want a check cashing service or convenience store if you are concerned about crime, as the association is really clear”.
- A question was raised around how VNHS is/will be doing outreach to the community.
- The response was that when VNHS has its Official opening it will invite the CAC and will also have a booth at the opening which will provide information around Kwayatsut.
- Other initiatives currently underway and/or being planned include:
  - Door to door leafleting with Kwayatsut information (and the community is invited to help complete this outreach activity);
  - Asking CAC members to fan information out to their local contacts;
  - Continuing to have information in MPNH’s newsletter;
  - Participating in multiple community activities (ie Car Free Days, Kingsgate Mall events, movies in the park) and sharing Kwayatsut information at those venues.
- A community member noted that the building will be in a much better place if it is proactive and reaches out to the community with information and it (the community) is willing to be involved in distributing information in a coordinated fashion.
- It was further noted that the community wants to know that their concerns have been heard, responded to and addressed.
- A final community comment was that it was really good to hear of the programs underway and that people were being helped.
- BCH rep noted: It’s been great here. As the building progresses everyone will notice that it is just a normal building with good people in it and as long as you can spread that word that would be great. And we are doing a good job and let everyone know.

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### **Action Items for next meeting:**

**VPD:** to report back if data around 911 calls can be shared with CAC

**VNHS:** Facilitator will survey all CAC members via email about changing the meeting from monthly to bi monthly and advise CAC of the outcome. Also to be considered is changing the meeting time from 5:00pm to 5:30pm



## Kwayatsut Community Advisory Committee Meeting Notes April 23<sup>rd</sup> 2015

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**\*NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR June 4<sup>th</sup> 2015 5:30pm-7:30pm.**

Meeting adjourned at 6:10 pm