



## Kwayatsut Community Advisory Committee Meeting Notes November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2016

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Location: 2465 Fraser Street, Vancouver, BC

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Invitees Attend: Bold Names indicate in attendance

### Community Representative

Jocelyn Hamel	MPNH
Bill Briscall	MPNH
Leyda Molner	Kingsgate Mall
Lynn Warwick	MPBIA
Tina Tews	Boys and Girls Club
Tanniar Leba	La Boussole
<b>Don Gardener</b>	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

<b>Michelle Vernooy</b>	City of Vancouver
Ali Gailus	VPD
Jose Abundo	VPD
Chris Taulu	Community Policing Center
<b>Partap Sahota</b>	Community Policing Center
<b>Jim Easte</b>	Community Policing Center
Darryl Newton	Community Policing Center
Teresa Campos	VCH-Raven Song
Justin Loveless	VCH-Raven Song
Justin Sekiguchi	BC Housing

### Pacific Community Resource Services Rep

Allison Parker	BYRC
<b>Paul Chartier</b>	BYRC Youth Housing Program
Zack Batalden	BYRC Youth Housing Program

### Vancouver Native Housing Society

Dave Eddy	CEO
<b>Jody Puff</b>	COO
<b>Alena Pacuchova</b>	Property Manager
<b>Tamara Stremble</b>	Building Manager
<b>Iga Osiecki</b>	Program Manager

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 Tamara Stremble

1. **Approval of agenda.** Agenda moved by Tamara Stremble and Don Gardner
2. **Approval of Minutes.** Tamara moved to accept the minutes, seconded by Paul Chartier

### 3. **Partner Updates:**

#### a. **VNHS**

- VNHS has a few vacancies for adult and youth suites, VAT interviews have been scheduled for the following week to fill out vacant units
- VNHS continues to have weekly meetings with BYRC and monthly meetings with BC Housing and BYRC
- The building deficiencies have been completed
- Programing: Ongoing programs including beading, dinner program, art program, literacy program, movie nights and MPNH Brunch are all successful
- In addition to ongoing programs, over the past 6 months there were BBQ's for tenants and partners, there have been more outings during the warmer months for tenants to get outside and be more engaged with the community
  - BC Lions games; trips to Capilano Suspension Bridge, Aquarium, Sun Yet San Gardens and Vancouver Orpheum; Vancouver Trolley tours; Community BBQ with MPNH
  - In House events included Thanksgiving Dinner, pumpkin carving contest, and Halloween party
- Future events: Flu shots, Hearing Aid clinic and Vision Testing done on site
- Window Graphics installation is completed
- Question raised by CAC member about Raven Song providing more support due to higher tier 3 individuals at Biltmore
  - Answer: VNHS has great partnership with Raven Song who comes on site to provide mental health and addiction outreach at the building twice a month. In addition, Raven Song has programming and further ongoing treatments on case to case basis at their location.
- Kwayatsut has created a monthly newsletter, residents share personal stories. The first newsletter was released in October 2016
- The monthly Calendar of Activities and Events is attached to the newsletter and posted in common areas
- Thanksgiving Dinner, 60 – 70 tenants participated
- VNHS and BYRC residents were participating in BC SHAKE OUT drill scheduled on October 20, 2016
- The Fire Drill will take place on Nov 15, 2016
- Christmas is coming up, suggested that CAC members have info sharing email set up to determine requests for donations
- The last year Christmas wish lists included toiletries and outerwear (gloves, mittens, hats etc.)

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- Asked by CAC member to inform the community partners about celebrations and tenants wish lists when they become available
- The tenant's turnover is normal, BYRC youth are transitioning out of youth suites to adult suites, some adult and youth tenants are moving towards more independent housing options. One of the success story is that one tenant was able to transition into the market housing due gaining employment after a volunteer opportunity was provided by the VNHS/MPNH Breakfast program
- Raised issue by CAC member: Biltmore has a problem for funding for housing subsidies
  - Answer: BC Housing offers various rent subsidies for qualified clients, two tenants at the building have received rent subsidies but they remain at the building
- Introduction of new Program Manager Iga Osiecki

**b. City of Vancouver**

- The independent grocer that was to take the two CRU's had backed out of the lease
- There will be a new independent grocer that will take reminding units, the lease is under negotiation and will be finalized in a next few weeks

**c. BYRC**

- Summer programming: every 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday BBQ in the park, Powwow, 4 youth to LGBTQ conference in LA, camping for youth 2 weeks ago, preparing for winter-fest week of Dec 13th, Halloween not as busy as in the past year
- BYRC Staff moving around internally
- Housing first money and slight foundation money acquired
  - Helps youth coming out of care to find housing
  - Housing first money works with the same youth that BYRC currently work with
  - Main issue is to find housing in Vancouver
- Programs are ramping up, some funding changes or ends in March
- December will be BYRC 2<sup>nd</sup> anniversary, meaning that there are many youth housed that just got stable will be asked to leave
  - Some will stay in the building in adult suites, some are going to have to find other
  - Everyone that has moved out of BYRC suites is doing better in their new housing options due learned skills
  - With housing first money, there will be more of a continuum
  - VAT interviews are scheduled for the next week
  - 15 youth are from the original group moved in
- The youth may stay longer than 2 years due to housing crisis
- There will be a big winter event
- Thanksgiving (Gratitude-fest) had 40 -50 participants, had a long table with buffet style dinner, fully carved turkeys

**d. CPC**

- New technology including new iPads have been successful and helpful
- Reporting graffiti used to take 20 -30 min and now takes seconds
- Graffiti removal will have a major impact on the community, will see improvement in the next year
- "Movie in the Park" was a success this year and it will occur again next year at Guelph Park. Held also in other park locations through out Vancouver.
- CPC will provide details to VNHS to inform tenants about planned events, want more community involvement
- Reports on garbage dumping have increased, due to higher cost of garbage removal at sites, mattresses are either no longer being taken or cost \$100 at site
  - City is trying to increase pick up in alleys and parks

- Pick ups occur within 24 hrs if the COV is notified, otherwise it takes up to 7 days

#### **4. Successes**

- VNHS is a grant recipient of VCH Healthy Living Program
  - Breakfast program focused on health, diet, nutrition and community involvement
  - This program launched the MPNH Brunch program, and new programs to come including a community garden and food network recovery program

VNHS is 2016 Land Awards Finalist in non-profit sector

- The finalists are selected by the Real Estate Foundation of BC for projects that demonstrate excellence and imagination in sustainable land use
- VNHS won the Urban Design Award, large scale category, from the City of Vancouver
  - From this VNHS has received multiple requests for tours coming from BC and other provinces to learn about housing and programs we offer to adult residents and youth
  - Great opportunity for information sharing among housing providers
- Question by CAC member about best practices:
  - Is it possible to repeat successes elsewhere?
  - Homeless and Housing conferences occur within Canada and world wide to discuss these issues
  - VNHS employs a grassroots approach, talking with other service providers to discuss actual needs and supports required opposed to mainstream focus of issues, in addition to working with other providers nationally.
- Kwayatsut housing study will be posted on BC Housing website along with other housing providers, making it easier to connect and share key practices and challenges, program components and supports

#### **5. Action Items**

- None

#### **6. Other Business**

- None

#### **7. Next Meeting**

There being no more items to discuss, the meeting was adjourned to 6:45 pm. Next meeting is proposed to be held on Thursday May 4, 2017