

MINUTES

Dunbar Community Advisory Committee

March 23, 2011
Dunbar Site Office (3595 West 17th Avenue)
6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Meeting called by Darrell Burnham, Executive Director, Coast Mental Health

Present: Darrell Burnham, Renay Bajkay, Donald Lamb, Penny Rogers, Sid Jongbloed, Marge Johnson, Allyson Muir, Roberta Fraser, Susana Cogan, Doug Purdy, Avie Estrin, Bill Hooker, Louise Elmes, Ed Goldstrom, John Stephens, Pitman Potter, Theresa Castro, Anil Singh, Abi Bond, Daniel Naundorf, Scott Gould, Shehzan Nathoo (note taker)

Apologies: - David Tupper, Katherine Taylor, Robert Westendorp, Terry Mullen, Michael Kierszenblat

1.	6:30 – 6:45	Introductions
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2.	6:45 – 8.00	AGENDA ITEMS:- No additions
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- **Approval of Previous minutes:-** Approved

- **Presentation by Anglicans of West Point Grey Neighborhood Ministry & the Kitsilano Showers for the Homelessness Program**

- Overview and goals of the organization, operations of the organizations, areas services are offered and profile of the people served, as well as ongoing work involved with the government and community were some of the topics covered in this presentation.

- This organization attempts to respond to needs to the homeless people within the community and were interested in the housing provided by the Dunbar building. Some of these people are currently accessing shelters and others are not as they are scared but all homeless people concerned are really in need of shelter and these are people currently residing in the community.

- Members of the CAC were quite positive- there is a difference between people who have the basic needs of shelter in comparison to those who don't get the opportunity- so if there is a way to help these people, then we should. Renay, on behalf of coast will need to do an initial assessment (which she had already started) in order to determine if the Dunbar apartments would cater to the needs and if Coast

was able to provide the necessary support these people required (as there were cases of pre-diagnosed and undiagnosed conditions)

- Homeless people are not excluded from wait lists if they apply. There is still about 8 months to go before Dunbar opens so any homeless people who are not seeking active treatment have a window of opportunity to do so, in order to form part of the 30 units allocated to VCH.
- Yaffa House had been allocated five units and Avie confirmed that he had 20 people interested on the waitlist.
- Members of the wider community may have concerns regarding alcohol and substance abuse. Most of the homeless people are in this area as they want to keep away from the drugs. Behavioral issues that become problematic following use of alcohol will be addressed. There is a difference between active addictions and just the use of alcohol. When the operation management plan was drawn up, additions and drug abuse was cited as a grave concern- does this mean we have to go back to the drawing board and change things in the OMP? The CAC and wider community will have to be consulted in this issue. In the city's interest, there has been a shift in policy towards provision of housing first, and then wrap services around in order to support the individual- but when this project was first initiated- it was not a Housing first Project. It was noted by some members of the CAC that some people in the wider community were worried as previously, a building in place of the Dunbar apartments housed people who were being weaned off drugs- however if certain supports were in place, or people were encouraged to join treatment teams from now- this should not be an issue of concern. Surely, despite opposition from some people- there is a way to make this work so everyone benefits from this?
- The biggest adjustment for homeless people will be moving from the street to their own homes and them having to limit interaction with their friends within their apartment, as well as keeping their apartment clean, and most importantly integrating back into the Community and using the resources available as their support.

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- **Construction update**
 - Construction was 2.5 months behind schedule due to the weather and a tentative completion date was

mid October for an opening/ moving date of November 1, 2011. The delays have been quite frustrating but construction will pick up momentum in the next few months. Once the roof is done (which requires a series of consecutive sunny days), window frames will go in, followed by glazing and the installation of windows. Within the next two months, there will be significant changes to the nature of the building due to cladding. Concrete will be poured onto the Commercial level soon and the city is in the process of identifying suitable commercial tenants. From the completion point of view, DP is assured that the Community will be happy with this building. The Commissioning process is expected to take a month, with some overlapping to ensure it gets done as quickly as possible. This project is well within budget- there have been some change orders but these have not been too extensive and tight controls on finances have been maintained.

- In order to clad, constructors have had to build a 7.5 foot wall to protect the adjacent property. Neighbors have been very cooperative where their property has been concerned and allowed constructors onto their property when necessary. Appreciation was recorded to these neighbors. DP has maintained great communication with these neighbors. A CAC member suggested recognizing these neighbors with an official "Appreciation" sign being put up if possible.
- To look into the possibility of printing an article in the DRA newsletter to provide ongoing updates as far as progress on this building is concerned, and also provide an avenue for a Question/ answer/ feedback forum.
- Appreciation was recorded to DP for sorting out the initial problems with parking in this area.

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- **VPD update:**
 - DB outlined discussions around his meeting with the VPD District Commander and Staff Sergeant. The will be a desk at the Dunbar Apartments for the VPD patrol to have coffee, make phone calls and provide a resource to the Community. Coast and VPD will have an open house a month prior to the opening so that they can meet the residents and staff and break down any barriers.
 - It was suggested that the VPD may consider contributing an article to the DRA newsletter/ website.
 - Appreciation was recorded to Anil for brokering the

contact between Coast and VPD.

- **Program Update:-** Incorporated in reporting done for Agenda item # 2
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- **Leasing Interest: -** This will be discussed at the next CAC meeting.
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- **Program Name Discussion: -** A short list will be provided to resident of the Dunbar building when they move in so that they can be involved in choosing an appropriate name.
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3. 8:00 – 8:20

- **Open Questions: -** Applications for residency in this building should be channeled through BC Housing. Coast will be involved in the selection process. VCH has its own application list, including residents at Cherry Doors to vet.
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4. 8:30

Next Meeting:- May/ June 2011 along with a tour of the site.
