

SARAH ROSS HOUSE HOUSING SUPPORTIVE HOUSING AT SARAH ROSS HOUSE

Community Advisory Committee (CAC) Meeting Notes

November 1, 2021

WELCOME, ATTENDANCE, AND INTRODUCTIONS

- The moderator welcomed the group and acknowledged that the site being discussed at this meeting sits on the traditional unceded territory of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Coast Salish Peoples.
- The moderator led a round of introductions and reviewed the meeting agenda.

UPDATE ON CURRENT CONDITIONS

Updates from Atira

- The Atira representatives thanked the CAC members for attending the meeting and reported that currently:
 - There are 50 tenants at the site: 24 men, 26 women, and 4 individuals who identify as LGBTQ+.
 - There is 1 room under renovation and 2 rooms are open and will be occupied this week.
- The Atira representatives advised that the tenants have been a joy to work with and they've participated in some great programming over the last quarter. Atira's plans are moving forward, and their job is to continue supporting the tenants and to resolve any issues in a reasonable and timely manner.

Some activities that they've held in the last quarter are as follows:

- Still Moon Arts does a monthly "Desserts and Arts" program: In August, they had a "Norfolk Food Forest Tour", which included painting the picnic benches, having food, and listening to a live cello performance;
- Regular staff-led movie nights with popcorn, which are casual and open to all;
- Bingo nights for tenants twice a month;
- Annual barbeque in the summer, open to all community residents;
- Regular health and wellness activities and workshops for tenants, including stretching exercises for the elderly;
- For Truth and Reconciliation Day, there were lots of indigenous cultural activities that were made available to all tenants;
- For Halloween, there was a pumpkin carving contest; and
- They are now planning for the Christmas activities.

Some of Atira's current plans involve developing a sustainable food program with the community gardens:

- For the Still Creek Community Garden, the Atira representatives have suggested to reduce the number of plant beds, from 5 down to 2, for easier tenant management and sustainability; and
- They plan to start having plant beds at the Sarah Ross House to get the tenants involved and to start a gardening club along with it.
 - The CAC members responded positively to all these updates and appreciated all the work that's been done so far by the Atira representatives.

Updates from the City of Vancouver

The City of Vancouver representative advised that someone contacted staff through 311 (the Vancouver Contact Centre) and an email raising concerns about feeling unsafe due to drug use in the nearby park as well as people hanging out in front of the building.

Response from the City of Vancouver

- The City's representatives followed up with the Sarah Ross House building manager as well as Park Board Rangers to pass along concerns and inquire about the recent activities. A City representative reconnected with the household that raised these concerns and provided the Sarah Ross House building manager's contact info as the most efficient way for a response to issues related to the Sarah Ross building or its tenants. A list of community contacts for resources in the community was also provided. <https://vancouver.ca/files/cov/homelessness-contacts-poster-collingwood.pdf>

Response from Community Members

- The Community representative said that sometimes the people hanging around the area know the residents or tenants. They added that lately it's been pretty good overall and there has not been much concerning activity in the area at all.

Updates from Community Members

- The Community representative advised that there was a tent set up nearby last week.