



**Temporary Modular Housing  
New Beginnings at Heather Lands  
Community Advisory Committee (CAC) Meeting Notes**

**December 10, 2018, 5:30 to 6:15 | VPL Terry Salman Branch**

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

- a) CAC members introduced themselves and their organization or affiliation. Each member discussed one thing they hope to get out of participating on the CAC.

**2. Overview of meeting format and agenda**

- a) The Facilitator described two functions of the CAC:
- An opportunity to bring any arising issues to the attention of the building operator
  - A forum to brainstorm ideas for ways that people can feel welcome in the community
- b) The Facilitator asked CAC members to review the Terms of Reference (ToR). The Facilitator highlighted two important points from the ToR:
- The CAC is not a decision making body, it has an advisory function;
  - When interacting in the wider community, CAC members are reminded that their points of view are personal and not representative of the CAC.
- c) **ACTION ITEM:** All CAC members will review and sign the ToR and send back to Lu'ma Native Housing Society before the next meeting.
- d) The Facilitator went over the meeting format:
- Each organization/group will have a chance to introduce themselves and give updates
  - Everyone will have the opportunity to ask questions
  - Today's meeting will end early and CAC members will have the opportunity to take a tour of the New Beginnings site.

**3. Introductions and Discussion**

- a) **Lu'ma Native Housing Society**
- Lu'ma has been a housing provider for over 30 years. It became incorporated in 1980 and has a volunteer Board of Directors.
  - Programs include an Aboriginal youth mentorship program and an Aboriginal patient

lodge in partnership with BC Women's Hospital.

- New Beginnings will be Lu'ma's first temporary modular housing site. It will have 98 units and will be staffed 24/7.
- Lu'ma also has a medical clinic and some of the nursing staff may help out at New Beginnings.
- Lu'ma will provide supports and meals to New Beginnings tenants. As the tenant profile is established, appropriate programs will be developed.
- Lu'ma will provide culturally appropriate supports to tenants such as medicine wheel teachings and drum groups.

#### **b) BC Housing**

- Each temporary modular housing building has a minimum of two staff on site 24/7.
- New Beginnings will have two buildings: one is planned for women only and one is planned to be co-ed.
- Supports will include:
  - One hot meal a day and likely a cold breakfast
  - Tenant support workers on staff that provide a range of assistance, including links to the health authority, help with acquiring identification, income assistance support and links to case workers
  - Staffing also includes a "homemaker" to support tenants with life skills, doing laundry and getting the unit in order
- Occupancy permit for first building is expected on December 13<sup>th</sup> and the second for Dec 14<sup>th</sup>. UPDATE: Occupancy Permits expected in mid-January due to storm water connection delays.
- Building training is being provided to staff of Lu'ma.
- Because tenanting is not expected until January, BC Housing is covering costs for 24-hour security of the site until then.

#### **c) City of Vancouver**

- CoV representative extended a thank you to everyone, especially volunteers on the CAC.
- Supportive housing projects usually have a CAC, as it is a successful method for bringing people together and building sense of community.
- The City is very excited about this project and attended the groundbreaking hosted by Lu'ma.

#### **d) BC Women's Hospital**

- BC Women's Hospital is very supportive of the project.
- BC Women's Hospital representatives are on the CAC to make sure that staff and patients on the hospital campus are aware of the project and to share information both ways between the hospital and the CAC.
- BC Women's Hospital would like to explore the possibility of reserving a unit within the New Beginnings site for women who utilize health care services at the hospital but have no place to stay. In exchange, BC Women's would look for opportunities to

support New Beginnings with services such as nurse practitioners.

- **Response from City of Vancouver:** This is a good example of the kinds of opportunities worth exploring between the City and VCH to evolve programming.

**e) Vancouver Police Department**

- Kerrisdale Oakridge Marpole Community Policing Centre and VPD are sharing the same representative on this committee.
- This is the third TMH project in this community policing area.
- The first two TMH sites have required little police presence. The representative is expecting the same here and is happy to be a part of the project.
- **Question from PAC member:** There are three schools surrounding the New Beginnings site, would that change anything about the policing?
- **Response from VPD representative:** We go where we're needed. The other sites are close to schools as well and there hasn't been friction between schools and TMH sites. If issues arise, the VPD will address them. We like to keep things on a community level.
- **Response from City of Vancouver:** The main difference for the sites that have schools around is involving the PAC in the CACs. We want parents to feel confident and comfortable. People can be nervous when a building opens, then it becomes just another building. Unless kids have had interactions with the building through welcoming events, they don't usually have a sense of what it is besides another apartment building.

**f) Community Members**

- **Question from PAC member:** Teachers and students at our school are interested in hosting a welcome event. Who would we reach out to?
  - **Response from Lu'ma:** You can reach out to our Executive Director or housing staff. We wrote a small grant for open house and cultural event in the new year. There will be a community announcement on January 11<sup>th</sup>. We do not expect tenants to be moving in before January 14<sup>th</sup>. UPDATE: tenants will move in mid-January, pending Occupancy Permit issuance.
  - **Response from Facilitator:** The community has found it very helpful to have a single point of contact.
  - **Response from Lu'ma:** Point of contact for community was identified as Doreen Mayer, Tenant Relations Supervisor.  
**ACTION ITEM:** Provide Doreen's contact information to all CAC members.
- **Question from Community Member:** Will CAC members' emails be distributed to the other members?
  - **Response from Facilitator:** No, to uphold the privacy of members.
- **Comment from Community Member:** Member had a chance to tour the Kaslo Temporary Modular Housing site and the Reiderman Residence before they opened. They expressed concerns from community and changes to the community after TMH

- opened in Marpole. Member applauded the existence of the CAC for New Beginnings.
- **Response from Facilitator:** Marpole has a CAC in place as well.
  - **Response from Community Member:** Noted that the Reiderman Residence buildings are in very nice condition.
- **Question from Community Member:** If we are going to have monthly meetings, when would they be held?
    - **Response from Facilitator:** We will work together to decide on a meeting schedule, and it will depend on the availability of the room.
    - *Community Member notes that they have another regular meeting scheduled for the third Wednesday of the month.*
    - **Facilitator to group:** Usually the CAC meets once a month, as we go on, we might not need to convene as regularly.
  - **Question from BC Women’s Hospital:** When there is an announcement, could we leverage a common communication?
    - **Response from the City of Vancouver:** We should probably take that back and think about it. It would be a coordinated effort between Lu’ma and BC Housing and it is a sensitive issue when people are moving in.
    - **Response from BC Women’s Hospital:** Timing is important, if and when it’s appropriate.
    - **Comment from City of Vancouver:** With the schools, it is nice to be part of a welcome group, but please give people time to settle in.
  - **Question from Community Member:** Do any of the tenants need housewares, etc.? We could put together a drive for these items.
    - **Response from Lu’ma:** We could use plates and towels,
    - **Response from City of Vancouver:** Consider that sometimes if a drive isn’t planned in the right way, the non-profit will end up with bags of unwanted stuff.
    - **Response from BC Housing:** At another TMH, the community put together a welcome packages and cards for residents.
    - **Response from Lu’ma:** We will consider how best to circulate this call-out.
  - **Comment from Lu’ma:** Doreen provided her phone number and email to the CAC members present at the meeting and described her availability.

#### 4. Action Items and Next Steps

Action Items
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● All CAC members will review and sign the ToR and send back to Lu’ma Native Housing Society before the next meeting.</li><li>● Lu’ma will circulate Doreen’s contact info to all New Beginnings CAC members, and</li></ul>

Doreen will serve as the point of contact for the community.

- Project partners will set a date for the January meeting and will send to CAC members in the new year.

**5. Meeting adjourned and members took a tour of the New Beginnings site.**