



NOTES Caledonia Tiny Homes Village Community Advisory Committee (CAC) Meeting

Everyone Welcome Meeting

May 27, 2021, 6-7:30 p.m.

BC Housing: Heidi Hartman – PRESENT

Business Community Representative: HarbourCats - Christian Stewart – PRESENT

Caledonia Tiny Homes Representative x 2: TBA

City of Victoria: Bill Eisenhauer PRESENT and/or Michael Hill REGRETS

North Park Neighbourhood Association: Sarah Murray – PRESENT

Not for Profit Representative: Silver Threads - Tracy Ryan – PRESENT

Not for Profit Representative – Alternate: Greater Victoria Housing Society - Raymond Moss PRESENT

Our Place Society: Julian Daly PRESENT and/or Leah Young REGRETS

Resident Representatives: Adit Prasad – PRESENT, Charles Joerin – PRESENT, Jennie Greven – PRESENT

Resident Representative – Alternate: Margaret Bell – PRESENT, Penny Bond – PRESENT

Security, Paladin Security: Aaron Kolarcik – REGRETS

Victoria Police Department: Constable Jose Bingham – PRESENT

City of Victoria Councillor Liaison: Councillor Sarah Potts – PRESENT

Facilitators: Meredith Elliott & Janine Theobald - Greater Victoria Coalition to End Homelessness

Territorial Acknowledgement

- Janine Theobald acknowledged the Ancestral Homelands of the Lekwungen Speaking Peoples, known today as the Songhees and Esquimalt First Nations, on whose lands the Tiny Homes are located and this work is taking place.
- A link to learning about the territories were provided as follows:
 - City of Victoria Reconciliation Dialogue #2
 - [Watch the Dialogue #2 archived webcast](#) & read the accompanying [Workbook](#)
 - Learn more about [UNDRIP](#)

Introduction of CAC Members

- All CAC Members and Alternates were in attendance, introduced themselves and shared what interested them in joining the CAC.
- Aaron Kolarcik, Paladin Security sent Regrets.
- City of Victoria Sarah Potts, Council Liaison to the North Park Neighbourhood was also in attendance.

Review: Purpose of CAC

- Primary purpose of the CAC is to have a broadly representative group of various stakeholders in the community to build and maintain trusting relationships.
 - If challenges or issues arise, community comes together, assuming best intent and in the spirit of common goals to collaboratively and equitably develop solutions
 - To share ideas that have come from community members engaging outside of the meeting
 - Ensure good dialogue and information is making its way across the community
 - Share a common purpose of seeing the site be successful for the duration of operations



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Review: Terms of Reference

- Participation
 - Regular attendance at meetings is required. Alternates can attend in place of members.
- Meeting Structure & Resources
 - The Greater Victoria Coalition to End Homelessness (GVCEH) will provide a facilitator.
 - Meetings will follow a structured agenda:
 - Update on current conditions, issues, successes
 - Roundtable discussion
 - Review of action items and follow up
 - A secretary will assist with scheduling, taking and distributing notes and agendas; currently GVCEH is facilitating this.
 - Meetings are an opportunity for free and open discussion with the goal of constructive outcomes together as a community.
- Communication
 - Ensure that issues and information relevant to the interests of the committee in fulfilling their mandate are shared.
 - Community representatives will make themselves available to communication from residents and business owners and convey information to the CAC when relevant.
 - Encourage others to use the community contact list protocol in reporting issues, concerns and comments to Our Place Society.
- Agreements for Engagement
 - These were shared from the Terms of Reference.
 - In place to support respectful and constructive conversations across diverse opinions.
- How and when to contact CAC Members & where to find meeting information:
 - Please send topics for discussion, concerns/accolades/solutions to:
 - BUSINESS – Christian Stewart, HarbourCats: chris@harbourcats.com
 - NOT FOR PROFIT – Tracy Ryan, Silver Threads: tracyryan@silverthreads.ca
 - RESIDENTS – Jennie Greven: jennie@greven.ca
 - Charles Joerin: cactinycharles@gmail.com
 - NPNA – Sarah Murray, Executive Director: executivedirector@npna.ca
 - Meeting Notes will be available at: <http://npna.ca/about/docs/>.

Tiny Homes Operational Update

- Julian Daly provided an operational update on behalf of Our Place Society.
- There has been an extraordinary welcome from the community: a neighbour put up a 'welcome home' sign in their window; people brought gifts – flowers and food; 30 kindergarteners made 30 tiny pictures for residents.
 - This alleviated some anxiety Tiny Homes residents were feeling as not all new sheltering sites have been well received
- This is a brand new build and some settling in glitches, such as some drains not working, have taken place, but they continue to be resolved as they arise.



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- Generally, things are going smoothly through the transition.
 - There was a discharge that made it into the local media; however, although there was an incident that did necessitate a discharge, there were some very positive outcomes that did not make it into the news.
 - There are some people living with complex mental health or addictions issues, which may be visible in community, and Our Place Society is working closely with Island Health and other agencies to support and facilitate wrap around care.
 - People are adapting and working with staff to come to an understanding of the shared rules and responsibilities, which are a big shift for some residents who may have been living in the encampments for a significant period of time.
 - Some people are starting the planning process to apply for permanent housing, employment or other life skills-skills building activities.
 - No concerns about drug dealing at or immediately around the building.
 - Things are going well with security team.
 - 'No Guest' policy is in place – some residents don't like it, but many understand why it is there and some appreciate that is in place.
 - The households and business in the immediate vicinity have the 24/7 number to call to reach Our Place Staff on site if they see something that is concerning, or needs immediate attention; this number is not for the general public.
 - Leah Young is on this committee and can be contacted.

Discussion / Q & A

- Q. Who is the CAC 'advising'? A. Not advising anyone specifically, advising around community solutions generated by community in collaboration with operator and partners.
- COMMENT. The porch at the HarbourCats office has seen increased activity since Tiny Homes opened; this is the main concern, or change since opening. GM reached out to Our Place, and Paladin Security has agreed to include the area in their general rounds. Our Place and Paladin responsiveness has been appreciated.

ACTION: Check in at next meeting to see if congregating on porch has been mitigated by having security include location on perimeter walks.

- COMMENT. Neighbour commented that this has been a huge improvement since the encampment at Central Park and they hope everything continues to go well.
- Q. from chat – How are people 'vetted' to be placed at Tiny Homes? A. Placements for Tiny Homes, and all supportive housing sites, go through a Coordinated Access and Assessment process, which includes Island Health, and which looks to place people with the appropriate services and supports.
- Q. How does one donate items to Tiny Homes Residents? A. General donations, such as clothes and household items, etc., should go through Our Place. If it is a specific item, such as flowers for the site, one could visit the site and give it directly to staff. If staff cannot accept the item, they would redirect it as appropriate.
- Q. Is there adequate electricity for units? Some residents are reporting there is not. A. As far as we know, yes, this was considered during planning and development. We can also look in to this.
- Q. Is smoking narcotics, and otherwise, permitted on site? A. There is not a safe consumption location specific on the site. Umbrella is there providing harm reduction support. There is a tent at



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Russel Street shelter, and perhaps there are some opportunities to explore. Residents are also encouraged to bring any concerns or needs to staff directly. Site supervisor is very open minded, practical, and receptive.

- Q. Is there any way for Tiny Homes Residents to have access to cutlery? Some would like to supplement meals they are receiving from Our Place, or have needs for softer foods A. Other than the washroom/shower stations there is currently nowhere to do dishes at this time. Residents can also make dietary requests for softer foods.
 - There was a suggestion of creating an outdoor sink location on site.
- Q. Would there be a desire for Tiny Homes Residents to participate in a 'meet in greet' community/neighbourhood BBQ? A. Yes, we are planning something along those lines, just working to get settled. A BBQ for residents, that the community could attend.
- Q. Is it possible to create some benches or seating outside of the Tiny Homes? A. Sarah from NPNA shared that they have received a grant through the Healthy Communities Initiative and are currently exploring the potential for 'pop up community' placemaking on Vancouver Street between Caledonia and Green Streets, which would include this.

ACTION: If you are interested in providing feedback, or participating on the Plaza Committee, please connect with Sarah Murray, ED, NPNA.

- COMMENT. Anecdotally, people are concerned, or have perceived safety concerns about parking cars or locking up their bikes next to Tiny Homes. It was noted by an attendee that the Security Guards are generally located at the bike locking area, which may make it the safest bike lock up in the City.
- COMMENT. Further discussion around the desire and potential for some communal space at the site.
- COMMENT. There was comment in the chat about a nearby condo for sale and it would be interesting to see how much it sells for. BC Housing has some resources in regard to the impact of locations of supportive housing on real estate market.
- Q. What is the preferred advocacy avenue for community to support residents? A. It should be driven by the residents of site. Advocates can reach out to Julian or Leah. Residents are always welcome to bring an advocate they have chosen to address issues they wish to bring forward.
- Q. When will Tiny Homes Residents start attending these meetings? A. The GVCEH and Our Place will work together to recruit and support Tiny Homes Residents to attend.
- Q. How long will people be staying at Tiny Homes, 3-4 months? A. In an ideal world, people would be moving quickly to, to permanent housing solutions; there has been an incredible investment by BC Housing to create permanent housing in the region. It will depend on the person, their needs, and housing availability.
- Q. What are the hours for Security? A. 24/7, on site and doing perimeter walks.
- COMMENT. Neighbours are loving the murals.
- Q. Are Tiny Homes Residents holding their own community meetings? A. Not yet. The GVCEH is hoping to be able to support facilitation of meetings by peers in community in the future, and community are encouraged to support these activities as well.

Next Steps & Closing

- Doodle Poll will be sent to CAC members to determine best date for Monthly Meeting.

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- Notes will be posted on NPNA website.
- One Word Check Out Wordle:

