

**RainCity Housing
School Road Community Advisory Committee
Meeting**

**April 22, 2021
5:00 – 6:00 pm**

1. Welcome and Introductions

- The moderator introduced themselves and shared that they were speaking from the territory of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh Peoples.
- The moderator led the group through a round of introductions.

2. Review Action Items from previous meeting

Action Item	Responsible	Status
1. Provide CAC members with links to online resources that could be shared with people in the community.	RainCity Housing	Complete
2. Send to Gibsons Elementary the dimensions for the wall that will display artwork from elementary students.	RainCity Housing	Complete
3. Include the phone number for the building in the meeting notes so that anyone interested in donating items can call ahead	RainCity Housing	Complete
4. Share tenant application form with CAC members	BC Housing	Carrying forward to next meeting

3. Update on Current Conditions

RainCity Housing

- RainCity shared that the site is currently 95% tenanted and the last few tenants will be moving in soon.

- RainCity explained that while COVID-19 has impacted how the building would typically open, programming has started. There is a weekly clinic with an in-house doctor and RainCity has been working with the pharmacy to come up with creative ways to get people their medication.
- The community has been very supportive and has donated a lot of art for the space. RainCity expressed their gratitude for the community's generosity.
- RainCity requested that if any community members would like to donate items to the program they should first contact RainCity to coordinate a drop-off time. Currently the only donation they are looking for is DVDs, as it is taking some time to get the tenant wi-fi set up in the building and RainCity would like to ensure the tenants have some form of entertainment.
- The Sunshine Coast Quilters Guild made everyone in the building a quilt. Some tenants hung them up on their walls as art pieces and others have been using them on their beds. RainCity expressed their appreciation for the donation and shared that it has been a nice way to connect with tenants by asking them to choose a quilt.
- RainCity shared that they've been working diligently with community partners and have monthly meetings with emergency services, RCMP and Vancouver Coastal Health. They have also been meeting with clinicians.
- RainCity shared that they are focusing on building relationships with tenants and community partners at this time.

Question from the Community:

- A member of the community asked for RainCity to elaborate on how they are working with community partners and finding supports.
- **Response from RainCity:**
 - o A lot of our tenants come with relationships already built in the community such as community services, home health workers, outreach workers, mental health support teams, etc. We're just working on identifying who all those folks are as we want to welcome them in as well. Our focus on relationships is not just with individual tenants, it's with their connections in the community as well. If people don't have those connections, we can work to help foster them. For example, Home Health provides home care workers that come in and help people in their homes. A lot of those workers come in and out of our building and we identify that as a need in many of our programs. We want to know who those workers are so that we can build a relationship and better support our tenants. If there's something going on with a tenant that we don't see, the home health worker can connect with us. A good way to do that is through monthly meetings or round tables. We also have that with the hospital and various partners through Vancouver Coastal Health. That's been really helpful with occupational therapists, for example, when doing assessment in tenant suites.

Question from the Community:

- A member of the community shared that they've heard complaints about the narrowing of the side road against the site when emergency vehicles are there and asked how that may be addressed.
- **Response from RainCity:**
 - o Our parking lot is very small and can fit only four vehicles. As we develop a relationship with emergency services and they get used to where they're going it should get better. Give there were so many months where things were under construction and then there was a bottle neck experienced due to the emergency vehicles, we understand the frustration. We're meeting with RCMP and emergency services and we can ask them to pull in when they have the time to consider that. It should improve. The sidewalk wasn't there originally either, so people may not have known how to access the building.

Question from the Community:

- A member of the community shared that they have seen negative comments on a Gibsons community Facebook group about the housing and whether people or not in the housing must participate in programming. They asked RainCity to provide some clarity.
- **Response from RainCity:**
 - o The programs are voluntary. We do encourage positive community engagement and foster that in the environments we create. Through building relationships with people, we hope they participate in the programming so they feel connected. The programs are offered and are not mandatory, but they are purpose-built from a peer perspective and are influenced by the people who live in the building. We work very hard to create environments that people want to live in and participate in.

Question from the Community:

- A member of the community shared that many people are comparing the Gibsons site to the one in Sechelt where there is speculation about an increase in emergency vehicles and police visiting the building. They asked RainCity to provide some clarity around that.
- **Response from RainCity:**
 - o We cannot speculate on that here and can't speak about another building. However, when there is an increase in people sometimes that leads to an increase in emergency vehicles. Also, visits from police may not always mean there is an issue. It could simply be a visit to foster relationships between emergency services and the site.

Comment from the Community:

- A member of the community shared that they appreciate RainCity being up front about any issues, as that is how trust is built.

Question from the Community:

- A member of the community asked what the protocol is if someone comes to City Council with a complaint or an issue relating to the housing.
- **Response from RainCity:**
 - o Whenever there is a community concern, please direct them to contact us so we can speak with them. In terms of how the community plays a role in managing issues, they should trust us at RainCity to manage situations accordingly. And if we cannot manage situations, we reach out to emergency services or do round tables with mental health teams and clinicians. That’s the work that we do, and we hope the community can trust us to do that. We work to be very responsive to the community and anyone can contact us through regular channels.

Question from the Community:

- A member of the community asked what the criteria was for someone to become a tenant in the Gibsons housing and whether RainCity is planning on bringing in more health workers to work in the community. They also asked how someone would submit an application for the housing.
- **Response from RainCity:**
 - o We have a very specific tenanting process at Gibsons. Everyone who lives here has ties to the community. In terms of bringing on more health workers, that’s for the Health Authority to do. We are not a clinical team, but we work alongside clinical teams.
- **Response from BC Housing:**
 - o All applications for the housing go through BC Housing. You can either email it or fax it to us. Please write “Gibsons” on the top of the application so we know exactly what the application is for.

4. Next Steps

- The moderator asked what time people would like to meet going forward. The general consensus was 4:00 pm.
- The group agreed to meet again in one month.

5. Action Items

Action Item	Responsible
Share tenant application form with CAC members	BC Housing
Schedule the next meeting for 4:00 pm	RainCity

