

Community Liaison Committee - 150 Harrison Street Modular Initiative
16 November, 2020 7-9 pm (Webex online meeting)
Meeting notes

Attendees: *City of Toronto participants:*
Abi Bond, Housing Secretariat;
Samantha Zavaglia, CreateTO;
Sgt Jeffrey Zammit, Toronto Police Service 14 Division.
Ward 9 Councillor/Deputy Mayor Ana Bailão

Service providers:
Kegan Harris and Lidia Monaco, The Neighbourhood Group;
Paul Bruce, Sylvia Starosta, Lin Sallay, Robert Abbatangelo, Cota Health;

Organizations:
Daphne Ballon, resident and representative of Lakeview Avenue Residents Association;
Monique Ganon, resident and representative of Lakeview Avenue Residents Association;

Residents:
Justin Becker, resident
Suzanne Cheriton, resident;
Susan Conley, resident; (was not able to log-in to participate; listened only)
Kira Heineck, resident;
Corinne Leibovitch
Diane Ruivo, resident;
Craig Ruttan, resident;

Regrets:
Cathy Quinton, Little Portugal Dundas Street Business Improvement Area;
Parin Kothari, resident;

Facilitator:
Bruce Davis, Public Progress

Meeting notes:

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS: The facilitator started the meeting shortly after 7pm with a land acknowledgement. Corinne Leibovitch has joined the committee; she attended the last CLC meeting as a member of the public and wanted to get more involved.
2. CONFIRMATION OF THE AGENDA: The committee members agreed on the agenda, which had been circulated in advance.

3. REVIEW OF MEETING NOTES OF 6 October: Committee members suggested that in the future that the meeting notes should have more information about what was discussed and any action items coming from the meeting.
4. CONSTRUCTION UPDATE: Samantha Zavaglia of CreateTO gave a brief presentation to the committee on construction activity. Craning of the modular units will begin on 23 November and we expect 5-7 days of craning. After that the internal hook-ups will be done and occupancy is now expected for the end of December.
5. PRESENTATION BY KIRA HEINECK: MYTHS AND FACTS ABOUT HOMELESSNESS IN TORONTO: Kira introduced herself as a neighbour, homeowner, lead executive at the Toronto Alliance to End Homelessness and a volunteer member of the CLC. Her slide presentation is attached to these meeting notes. As part of her presentation she asked committee members to identify issues or concerns that could be added to a Frequently Asked Questions document that could be shared with neighbours. The committee members' suggestions were very specific to the 150 Harrison development rather than general questions about homelessness. The committee members' feedback was added to Kira's slide presentation.
6. COMMITTEE DISCUSSION: WHAT CAN WE DO TO HELP? Kira's presentation led into a committee discussion about what we can do as a committee to facilitate conversations with neighbours and also to ensure the successful introduction of the tenants. The following suggestions were raised by the committee:
 - a. Develop an information packet for tenants
 - b. Plan community meals with tenants, opportunities a couple of times a year, potluck-style
 - c. Work on a community garden, either at the adjacent park or on the modular housing property
 - d. Share the housing provider contact information
 - e. Plan an outdoor event for Xmas or New Years, hot chocolate
 - f. Make a connection between the new women's shelter on College Street and the modular housing some women have a permanent place to live.
 - g. Host an open house for the neighbourhood
 - h. The adjacent park should NOT be a playground; it should be connected to the modular housing and the residents should be involved in the planning
 - i. We should think about an ongoing neighbourhood liaison role
 - j. Should prepare an information package and also donate toiletries
 - k. Should plan a welcome gift basket
 - l. Should plan a virtual tour, walk through of the new building.

At the end of the discussion Bruce suggested that two projects should be the focus in the short term. The committee agreed to focus on 1) creating information packages for new tenants (Kira, Corinne and Bruce to work on this); and 2) creating gift baskets for new tenants (Kira, Craig and Bruce to work on this). Planning an event would be the focus of the next meeting.

7. UPDATE BY THE NEIGHBOURHOOD GROUP AND COTA HEALTH: Kegan Harris (TNG), Lidia Monaco (TNG), Paul Bruce (Cota), Lin Sallay (Cota), Robert Abbatangelo (Cota), and Sylvia Starosta (Cota) gave a brief update for the committee. The Neighbourhood Group is ordering supplies, working mostly on the modular housing in Scarborough which is ahead of the Harrison site. Cota Health indicated that they are currently recruiting staff for the Harrison site. 8 of 10 staff have been hired. Now looking at tenants moving in towards the end of december with

2 people moving in each day. There was some discussion about a video that would show people the inside of the new modular units and also put the service providers front and centre.

8. UPDATE ON SAFETY AUDIT: Bruce mentioned to the committee that in June a walk-about had taken place with City Planning, Toronto Police 14 Division, CreateTO staff and Councillor Bailão's staff to look at issues as they might affect community and tenant safety at 150 Harrison. This was not a safety audit but an informal process to identify potential issues. Abi Bond asked for a report to be shared with the CLC at its next meeting and Bruce agreed to prepare summary notes for the committee.
9. PUBLIC COMMENTS PERIOD: There were no comments or questions from the public.
10. WARD 9 COUNCILLOR/DEPUTY MAYOR Ana Bailão wrapped-up the meeting with her closing comments and thanked members of the community for participating. She said that her office was getting an overwhelmingly positive response about the new shelter on College Street. It was important to remember that 150 Harrison Street will be someone's home. Deputy Mayor Bailão mentioned that there was a community survey for the neighbourhood park at Harrison and Dovercourt and to please promote the survey within the community. She thought the welcome basket was a good idea. Deputy Mayor Bailão suggested that Cota and The Neighbourhood Group needed to be front and centre and the new manager should be reaching out to the community. She suggested the CLC should continue for some time and that Post-COVID-19 we would be able to do much more interesting things to involve the community.
11. NEXT MEETING: There was a discussion about the need for a new meeting in January which would focus primarily on a welcoming event. This would be a working meeting so it need not involve the public.

Draft meeting notes prepared by Bruce Davis, facilitator.

Meeting notes reviewed by the CLC on January 13, 2021.