

## Mount Edwards Court Neighbourhood Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 15, 2016

Second Floor

Christ Church Cathedral Victoria, BC

Kathy Stinson, Cool Aid introduced herself as Chair for the meeting

An agenda was circulated and accepted

Everyone in the circle introduced themselves and their connection

- Chris Coleman, City Councilor was in attendance,
- Reps from the Fairfield Gonzales Community Association were in attendance
- John Sherratt, Cool Aid agreed to take Minutes: will capture general themes and any action or follow-up items
- Parents from CCCS were in attendance
- Neighbours were in attendance

An attendance sheet was circulated – minutes will be emailed and posted on the Cool Aid website; go to: [www.CoolAid.org/mtedwards](http://www.CoolAid.org/mtedwards)

### **Action Items from the previous meeting:**

1. Chris Coleman explained that the reopening of Rockland Av would require a formal request. It was suggested that this would be unlikely to happen
2. Chris Coleman reported that Public Works is looking at a pilot project to improve lighting in the neighbourhood and this would include different lighting options
3. Chris Coleman reported that the Director of Planning for the City said that if Mt Edwards is used for a purpose different from a Nursing home that a rezoning process will have to occur (see the note from City staff at the end of these minutes)
4. Kathy Stinson reported that the cameras at Mt Edwards could not be repositioned
5. Kathy Stinson reported that links to research supporting Harm Reduction would be posted on Cool Aid's website

### **ACTION: Chris Coleman to provide update on the City Lighting pilot project**

A neighbour expressed concerns about the minutes and that they didn't accurately reflect the discussions had during the meeting. As several of the neighbours are recording the meeting, it was suggested that they provide Cool Aid with a transcript of the meeting to include in the minutes.

### **ACTION: Neighbours to provide transcript of meeting**

Neighbours expressed concern that there was not enough presence of the Community Liaison around the building and neighbourhood. It was suggested that the Community Liaison be augmented with two security guards between the hours of 0700-2400.

**ACTION: Cool Aid to work with BC Housing to investigate cost and feasibility of hiring security guards to augment the Community Liaison Position**

**ACTION: Cool Aid to work with staff to improve presence of Community Liaison around Mt Edwards**

Concerns were raised regarding activity being carried out on the second floor, particularly as assurances had been given that only the first floor would be in use. Parents were concerned as second floor windows are directly observable from school classrooms. Cool Aid advised that the second floor was being accessed for storage only by staff and reiterated that no residents would have access to the second floor.

## **Updates**

Mt Edwards:

- Two residents have moved out of Mt Edwards and into permanent supported housing. Their rooms will be filled with new residents from Tent City
- An issue with lighting in the courtyard and front of the building is being investigated.
- An overview of Non-emergency/911 calls was given
- Police were called for one incident inside the building – a resident was expressing harm to self

Discussion around how this would affect the resident's stay; he was medically fine to return.

**Action: Cool Aid to ask VicPD to attend meetings and provide updates on any neighbourhood calls**

School:

- A report of an incident that occurred at the corner of Burdett and Vancouver was given

Neighbourhood Association:

- Reiterated that they are here, available and impartial
- Clarified their role in this process – they do not represent or speak for the neighbourhood

## Good Neighbour Agreement

There was discussion about the purpose in creating the agreement. What role is there for neighbours who do not want Mount Edwards to be their neighbour in participating? There is still a role provided you are willing to work constructively to ensure the best outcomes possible for all neighbours (including Mount Edwards residents) over the next year while the Mount Edwards program will be operating.

**Action: Individuals interested in participating in a working group to create a ‘Good Neighbour Agreement’ should contact Kathy Stinson [kstinson@CoolAid.org](mailto:kstinson@CoolAid.org). (should include representation from neighbours, school, church and Cool Aid; 6 -8 people)**

### Future Meetings:

- Will continue to alternate between afternoon and evening

Tuesday, March 22, Noon – 1:00pm, CCCS gym

Tuesday, March 29, 7pm – 8pm, TBD

### Note to Chris Coleman from City staff (referenced earlier):

**From:** Jonathan Tinney

**Sent:** Monday, March 14, 2016 3:59 PM

**To:** Chris Coleman (Councillor) <[ccoleman@victoria.ca](mailto:ccoleman@victoria.ca)>

**Cc:** Councillors <[Councillors@victoria.ca](mailto:Councillors@victoria.ca)>; Jason Johnson <[jjohnson@victoria.ca](mailto:jjohnson@victoria.ca)>

**Subject:** FW: 1002 Vancouver - Cllr Enquiry - response required latest tomorrow morning

Dear Councillor Coleman

Further to your enquiry regarding the 1002 Vancouver Street and potential Zoning issues, the property is currently zoned R-K Zone, Medium Density Attached Dwelling District which allows single family dwellings (including on a small lot), duplexes, attached dwellings (i.e. townhouses), hospitals and nursing homes. Some useful zoning history is included below:

- The building was constructed in 1911 as a 30 unit apartment building, which was permitted under the R3-1 zone of the day
  - The building was converted on June 26, 1979 to “care facility” which would have been considered as “Nursing home” under the bylaw of the day
  - The building lost rights to an apartment use in 1979 when it changed use to a “nursing home”.

In light of the above, unless the proposed use of the property qualifies as a “nursing home” then a Rezoning Application is required. The following criteria must be met for a use to qualify as a “nursing home”:

1. There must be regular care or supervision provided;
2. The regular care or supervision must be provided by a health care professional;
3. There must be provided assistance with performance of the personal functions and activities necessary for daily living; and
4. The persons receiving the care, supervision and assistance must be persons such as the aged or chronically ill, and who are unable to perform those activities efficiently themselves.

Based on these criteria, staff feel that the current proposals being put forward by Cool Aid would not meet this standard. Cool Aid have acknowledged that they understand their proposal will require a Rezoning Application as at best only some of the units may meet the definition of a “nursing home”.

Regards

Jonathan Tinney

Director

Sustainable Planning & Community Development

City of Victoria  
1 Centennial Square, Victoria BC V8W 1P6

T 250.361.0511 F 250.361.0248

## **Additional Notes from C Schmidt re: the March 15, 2016 Neighbourhood Liaison Meeting**

- The FGCA stated that they do not represent the neighbourhood and they do not speak for the neighbourhood
- There was general support that amendments be included in the minutes since the point of the minutes is to capture the meeting and since people who are not at the meeting will look at the minutes. P4
- Cool Aid offered to share Speak Up Fairfield’s transcript as minutes of the meeting if it is provided but Cool Aid will continue to capture action items. P5

- The City (Councillor Chris Coleman) stated that to open Rockland Avenue, a formal request would need to be brought forth to council. He discussed the zoning of the property and he stated that if Mount Edwards is used for a purpose different than a nursing home then a rezoning will be necessary and that the Cool Aid proposal does not meet the standard and that Cool Aid has acknowledged that the proposal requires a rezoning of the property and at best only some units fit the description of a nursing home. He read this from a letter from Johnathan T., director of sustainable planning and community development, which he stated would be attached to these minutes. He stated that the province has agreed to go through a rezoning; he promised to hold the province to that. BC Housing confirmed that there will be a rezoning process and it is committed to it. Cool Aid stated that the province must go through a rezoning in the long term. P6, P7, P8, P19
- Cool Aid stated that 28 of the 38 residents at Mount Edwards are from Tent City.
- Many neighbours complained that the community liaison officers are not present. P3, P8, P9
- Many neighbours complained about loitering. P9
- Cool Aid agreed that managing the community liaison officers is its responsibility and not the neighbourhood's--so neighbours should not have to call Cool Aid to report that an officer is absent. P10
- A neighbour proposed that there be two security officers out front and two liaison officers on patrol. P10
- Many neighbours complained about a lack of professionalism among community liaison officers. P10, P11
- A complaint was made that Cool Aid staff did not answer its phone for 6 minutes. P12
- A request was made for anonymized, severed admission and discharged data but was denied. P12
- A complaint was raised that staff is using the second floor when Cool Aid promised that only the first floor would be used. P13
- A police call was discussed about a resident. P14
- BC Housing recollected that the original commitment was for 24-hour security but sought confirmation from Cool Aid, which could not remember. P16
- Speak Up Fairfield argued that it is in a position to represent the neighbourhood but it rejected the Good Neighbour Agreement on the basis that it implies agreement to Cool Aid's operation at Mount Edwards. P19
- BC Housing explained that it took over the contract for purchase and sale from Cool Aid to solve a short-term issue. P20