

## **Downtown Blanshard Advisory Committee Board Meeting**

Monday, February 26, 2024, 6:00 pm

QVCC Youth Centre

### **MINUTES**

**Board Members Present:** Cheryl Wolfe-Milner, David Turner, Leslie Kenny, Matt Takach, Hana Akai, Frankie Chao

**Regrets:** Firas Daoudy, Fapu Duan

**QVCC Staff:** Kelly Greenwell

**Guests:** Susan Kim (Council Liaison)

**Chair:** Leslie Kenny

**Minutes:** Matt Takach

1. Approval of the Agenda  
Moved/Seconded: David, Matt  
Passed. No Objections.
2. Approval of the Minutes of January 22, 2024  
Moved/Seconded: David, Frankie  
Passed. No Objections.
3. Agency Report - Kelly Greenwell (see Appendix for full report)
  - VIRCS (Victoria Immigrant and Refugee Centre Society) partnership going well, our Youth Outreach worker goes to VIRCS once a week.
  - Capital Action Committee training for 10 staff from the Centre
  - Black History Month events postponed, should end up being a better training as a result
  - Quadra Village Days organizing is a little behind where we thought we'd be at this point
    - Looking for an entertainment coordinator
    - Stage coordinators
    - Festival grants might be available
  - Fund development
    - Received \$25K from the City of Victoria to continue the housing coordinator for 4 months
    - Campaign in the works to raise matching funds of \$25K
  - Agency survey, last chance to fill it out and circulate it around
  - Still waiting to hear from a foundation that could provide up to \$180K of funding for Children and Youth, the name of the foundation to be revealed
4. People sleeping outside the Centre at night. Staff have been providing resources and offering to connect to services. Some access resources but most don't want to connect to services. City has a Relocation Coordinator who works with those sleeping outdoors to them to services and housing.
5. Business Arising from the Minutes
  - i. Update on Evergreen Terrace Tenants' Advisory Committee for BC Housing - Cheryl
    - Design plans have been submitted to the city

- Notices given to some people for a 1.5 year move out date (24 units), all others a 5 year move out timeline, tenants will have moving expenses covered, worker to visit to identify needs for each resident to make sure they are accommodated, hopefully on site. If not able to be on site, BC Housing will look at other properties in their portfolio, if that's not possible then placement in market housing with rental cost gap covered by BC Housing.
  - Some concerns about shared laundry in the building plans, too many residents with large families to make this viable. Some concerns about flooding in units from the BC Housing side.
  - Eco friendly building is important to residents
  - Concrete not a renewable resource, would be nice to see alternatives
  - Could be paid parking in the future, but maybe grandfather in free parking for current tenants
  - Storage could be an issue as basements are no longer going to be part of the new units
  - Many on the Tenant Committee are part of the first round of move-outs
  - Annual clean up days will be important as we get closer to move out day, many folks do not have vehicles and struggle to get rid of things
  - Options for "swing suites" that combine two units for larger or multigenerational families, this will be for a small number of units
  - Outside agencies will be managing some of the other buildings on the site
  - Could the build-out result in inequitable finishings and amenities based on the rate of subsidization?
  - Not likely to be further community meetings as BC Housing developments are special development areas that can bypass regular processes
- i. Council Liaison update – Susan
- City staff saying that QVCC should push for a community space as part of the project. Potentially up to 10,000 sf of community use space. Opportunity for us to do some outreach.
- ii. Housing Outreach Program fundraising
- Centre will have a website/campaign page
  - Board can help spread the word about it
  - Could we communicate with past Gift of Good Food donors?
- iii. Gaza statement
- Gaza Subcommittee (of the Equity Committee) wanted more time to review the statement and provide feedback
  - Some questions about positive steps we could take to demonstrate action beyond just the statement
  - We felt pressure to get a quick decision and something distributed
  - The statement became more elaborate than we first thought it would be

- Could we have a universal statement to affirm that QVCC is a place where all are welcome and seen? Perhaps a long-term project of planning or something for the Equity Committee to explore.
  - ACTION: Kelly to work with the committee on statement refinement and send back to board for approval.
6. VCAN Update (Victoria Community Association Network) - Leslie
- i. QVCC liaison update
    - Firas will step down as the VCAN rep, willing to take on other roles on the board
    - Matt to take on this role going forward
  - ii. Official Community Plan timeline
    - Year long consultation until March 2025
    - Leslie attended downtown session with over 50 people in attendance
7. Committee Updates
- i. Strategic Planning
    - Committee met at Matt's house in January (Fapu, Kelly, Matt, Leslie)
    - Trying to plan a retreat before summer with Board members and senior staff
    - Kelly doing outreach to staff, will update at the next meeting
  - ii. Equity Committee
    - Looking for a board member to join as Firas has stepped down
    - DEI policy is in the works, some sample plans are being circulated
8. Adjourned at 8:07pm

**APPENDIX: QVCC Agency Update: January 20 to February 25, 2024**

[Child, Youth and Family Outreach and Counselling](#)

Appointments and referrals to and from VIRCS are now a successful part of our routine with numbers increasing.

[Youth Centre and Programs](#)

Kara, our Youth Outreach Worker, has started a partnership with a local consignment store to provide youth-specific clothing for youth attending our Centre

[Community Support Program](#)

Food distribution takes place Tuesday through Thursday. Volunteers are being sought to help with the Clothing Exchange program.

[Seniors' Entitlement Service](#)

After almost 5 years, Ben Ziegler is retiring as coordinator. Ben has been effective and is appreciated. Awareness of the service has grown significantly. Ben has led the team through the retirement of many volunteers and done a good job at regenerating the volunteer team.

[Facilities and More](#)

Ryan Czech has accepted the position of Facilities Coordinator, responsible for facility bookings, safety, maintenance and equipment, and serving as our lead technology support. He will be starting March 4.

A major event, Seedy Sunday, was hosted by Victoria Compost Education Society at the Gym and Centre this past Sunday.

#### Administration

Linda Do has accepted the position of Administrative Coordinator: Human Resources and Operations and will start March 4.

#### Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

Several staff attended a February 2 training with Indigenous Perspectives Society on Building Relationships with Local Indigenous Communities. We decorated the Centre for Lunar New Year and raised awareness of Black History Month. We are working on a multilingual welcome sign for the QVCC living room. The Equity Committee asked for time to reflect on the statement on Gaza/Israel that the Board passed.

#### Quadra Village Day

The Committee started actively meeting in late January. Now it's off to the races. More help is needed!

#### Fund Development

- Our joint Coalition of Neighbourhood Houses proposal has netted \$3,600 from the Order of St. John
- \$25,000 in emergency Housing Outreach funding was unanimously approved by the City

#### Agency Survey

Our [agency survey](#) is open until the end of February. Please consider completing it and circulating the link to folks that you know are connected to Quadra Village Community Centre.