

FSGV Youth Centre – 1134 Burrard Street Public Meeting Notes– January 24, 2005

Note: These notes have been prepared by the facilitator to capture the essence of the questions, answers and comment portion of the meeting organized by subjects. These notes are not a verbatim record nor do they include presentation materials. The objective of this meeting was to provide an overview of the City of Vancouver's (COV) Development Permit process with regards to Family Services of Greater Vancouver (FSGV) plans to open a Youth Centre at 1134 Burrard Street leading to the development of a Facility Management Plan through workshops to be conducted over the next 6 weeks.

Safety and Security	How is FSGV preparing to provide stewardship of the area?	This will be addressed in the workshop on security on February 2
	What will be used in place of the barbed wire?	Between Burrard Medical Building and Burrard, razor ribbon was used to deter people from climbing up tree to get onto roof. Suggestion from City was to do something to tree to prevent people from using to get onto roof and something more aesthetically pleasing yet equally deterrent to prevent people from getting up onto the roof. Perhaps increase height of parapet wall to make too high to physically get over.
	Will the laneway razor wire be replaced	Whole fence being replaced with 10 ft fence – no footholds so one cannot get over – looking at different options right now. Meant to be used as deterrents
	Have you met with businesses/stratas to determine efficacy of such an approach?	We will be preparing a coordinated security plan together with security from our neighbours. One Development Permit requirement is for a coordinated security plan.
	What is the purpose of the fence	Prevent people from sleeping in parking area as well as to protect the garbage enclosure and staff cars.
	How long will recordings be held from your recording devices/cameras?	This will be discussed at security meeting; recommendations will also come from our security company; main use of cameras will be to help manage the exterior of the building.
	Will the City allocate a special budget for safety?	We can't speak for COV Police in terms of where they allocate their funding – will make an attempt to have Police representation at the security meeting.
	At the security meeting on Feb 2 I want to address how much will be spent on security cameras and what will happen to people when they are deemed inappropriate - where do they go at night?	Any issues that the community feels need to be addressed can be brought up and discussed in detail at the security meeting. We will hear the concerns and decide what needs to be built into the management plan.

	Are there back fire exits?	Three doors that lead to the rear parking area will be keyed or card access only. These will also be attached to the fire alarm system. There will also be security doors that will ensure clients do not have access to certain parts of building unless they are with staff members.
	The facility could become a magnet for drug dealers - how will you deal with that if it happens?	We will bring this to the security workshop.
	Security stats re crime in our neighbourhood will be helpful to see if the facility results in changes.	COV Police will be invited to the security meeting and this could be discussed.
Community Advisory Committee (CAC)	What is the selection process for the Community Advisory Committee?	Two workshops are scheduled to discuss what this group would look like and what this group will do – February 21 and March 2. Development Permit Board specifically indicates who should be part of the process. Prior to development permit issues, names will be determined, but committee won't necessarily set terms until after the development permit
	If insurmountable problems take place within 6 to 12 months, can the centre be moved or re-structured?	The CAC will be up and running once the facility is open. This is the group that we envision being the first line of resolution. CAC will work together to try to find solutions. Ultimately, if the facility is not being properly managed, the City has the ability to cancel the lease.
Facility Operations	One of the key conditions determined that the facilities would be open for a 24 hour period	Condition on the development permit – facility must be open 24/7 – if not met, City would have to be notified and City would have to make decision. Centre also cannot be used as a needle exchange or safe injection site.
	Has graffiti been a problem with the building?	Not specific to this building; all Development Permits issued by COV require a graffiti resistant coating.
	Will sleeping facilities be provided for youth?	This is not a shelter and there are no sleeping facilities
	Why are you considering one way or two way glass in your vestibule?	Privacy and safety issues for clients and staff as well as considerations for the meeting room in that area – this detail is not yet finalized.
	What is the initial screening mechanism at front door?	Monitoring will be done at the reception area based on security and safety considerations as well as whether the person is eligible for our program. Details still need to be developed on this process.
	How will you monitor and report on your program?	FSGV will include what we accomplished, how we used our resources and performance as per the management plan. Further details of monitoring and reporting can be addressed in the CAC Terms of Reference.

	If program is successful, what is the client capacity?	We expect to be addressing about the same numbers as we do now but we know homelessness has grown and homeless youth is one piece of that. The CAC provides a structure to deal with emerging issues such as a change in client numbers if this occurs.
Facility Management Plan	The draft management plan has to provide satisfactory answers.	The plan must be pragmatic in addressing the concerns of the public. If the COV representative in this process is not satisfied, the Directors of Planning and Social Planning will be advised of the concerns of both the community and FSGV.
	For the next meeting, set-up the room to be more conducive to dialogue and provide us with a list of the issues that will be discussed and any pertinent materials prior to the meeting.	The next series of meetings will be set up in a workshop layout and the intent is to provide these materials to allow these meetings to be optimally productive.
Programming	Does FSGV have another youth facility and, if so, how is it working	FSGV had a Youth Centre in New Westminster in a portable building on school property – this was closed three years ago due to funding concerns and a modified program is now operating in the Royal City Mall. FSGV has been in the downtown area for over 18 years – the sites FSGV are currently operating out of are not ideal facilities or locations.
	What problems are there at the current site on Seymour St?	Too many social services are too close together resulting in groups of people congregating outside the facility who are not FSGV clients and whom FSGV holds no jurisdiction over.
	How many clients will there be on a daily basis.	FSGV expects between 100 – 150 youth over a 24 hour period, with the Centre seeing the most at any given time during the meal program. FSGV will consult the CAC with regards to community impact of programming.
	Can we expect to see a large number of youth coming out of the facility in the morning?	We don't expect that there will be a large number of clients exiting in the early morning. We work to get those youth in shelters (not at this facility).
	Is this the first design/program of its kind in densely inhabited area?	We have 2 sites (Dusk to Dawn) and (Day programs 9 – 6). This facility involves moving two sites together and being open 24/7 in one location is new.
	How many homeless youth are there in the downtown core?	This is difficult to determine but efforts are being made to get a reliable census.
Miscellaneous	Are other adjacent sites scheduled for development?	Nothing that the City is aware of at this time.