

Community Liaison Committee (CLC) Meeting Agenda – Tuesday, January 24th 2017 at 6:00p.m.

Schedule

CLC Meeting 6:00p.m.-7:30p.m. (Refreshments & Light Dinner will be provided by LOFT Kitchen)

Note: Please bring your signed and witnessed Terms of Membership Reference to hand in at the meeting Special guests: 14 Division Staff Sergeant Gordon Whealy will be joining the group for the QA portion; and artist Erica Bota from ThinkLink Graphics will be providing graphic facilitation for the Community Integration portion of the meeting.

Present: Samantha Vite, Sandra Vaughan, Angela Burns, Cam Kilgour, Karen Haberman, Jason Burke, Andy Smith, Nicole Mirante, Charles Barnes, Joy Connelly, Safia Lakhani,

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| <p>1. Welcome & Recap of December 13th 2016 meeting (5 minutes)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -decided on formally going forward with 2 sections of committee. -Meetings will begin with quality assurance: shelter updates, community issues, etc, -Second half will include community integration: how the shelter contributes to the community -Erika, Thinklink Graphics, here to help brainstorming process through images, ideas, connections -Scheduling of future meetings: Sam will be away for end of Feb, have meeting within next 2 weeks, or, beginning of March |
| <p>2. Update and information on shelter and drop-in operations (10 minutes)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -shelter is open, updates from Greg: -opening has gone quite well, staff have been adapting, full since 3rd night -guys already taking pride in the place: “it’s nice, keep it that way” -providing counselling, breaking barriers program, housing workers, 1 clients has already found housing -there has been a great reaction from community and media, city news, metroland media, daily mirror, north york mirror, torontostar have all reported on the shelter opening -hours: 24/7 -the drop in is serving 120 people/day for lunch -partnered with Toronto public health, nursing student, blood pressure and diabetes |

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| | <p>clinics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -men's support group starting next week -women's support group starting soon -incident today (Jan.24): participant in crisis followed by overreaction from staff member who immediately called 911 -Police arrived, by which time the manager had deescalated the situation -police cars outside, filming from people on sidewalks -best course of action was to transfer client to a quieter place, transferred to north site where there is no drop-in - client is working with support worker -great protocol and approach from responding officers |
| <p>3. Update on 14 Division's Community Policing Initiative (5 minutes)</p> | <p>Gordon Whealy: recently transferred to 14th as acting inspector,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -officers are trained to handle situations effectively -don't fear calling 911, the police are there to support/diffuse/deescalate -Police will answer questions from people outside, through twitter/fb, can address community about any potential visible issues -Community policing: focus on transformation, how to do business better and more efficiently while working with communities and social agencies to achieve community safety. -Building relationships, ongoing communication, and working together to keep things safe. -Issues related to Homelessness, (economic, employment issues) are 90% of the work police do. -Gordon's card passed out with contact info. <p>Q: Has there been an increase in crime related to dispensaries? A: Recent report shows dispensaries become easy targets for robberies. Offenders usually armed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -allowing these businesses to continue |

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| | <p>operating puts other citizens at risk -Asking for dispensaries to report robberies while understanding that coming forward means they will be held accountable</p> <p>Q: re: Jan. 24 incident- was the incident precipitated by client with mental health issue and then escalated by staff member? A: Issue not caused by staff, client was in state where they thought something was happening that wasn't. Staff reacted to staff member as someone they weren't. An interaction occurred and staff panicked.</p> <p>Q: What kind of training is staff receiving to deal with situations like these? A: All staff are college or university graduates from social services programs. To be a frontline worker Toronto hostel training center offers training specific to these situations, specific to deescalating conflicts. The main focus is always on verbal de-escalation, as was this situation. Officers with MCIT(mental health crisis intervention team) can be called in the future through non-emergency call. Available from 11am-9pm.</p> |
| <p>4. Committee Member Forum for questions or concerns relating to shelter operations (5 minutes)</p> | <p>Questions/comments/issues since opening? No. -Fliers from Mike Layton's office to be handed out Thursday, passed out to group. -fliers were created for people with no internet/email and will be distributed to mailboxes throughout the community. -will send email re: next meeting -terms of reference signed</p> |
| <p>5. Group Brainstorming (30 minutes)</p> <p><i>ThinkLink Graphics' Erica will be creating graphic facilitation throughout the discussion (thinklinkgraphics.com)</i></p> | <p>-figure out how to create project, small or long term, to add value to bloorcourt/have bloorourt add value to the shelter -tonight will discuss guidelines ideas: 1- An aspect of breaking barriers is housing support. Housing worker, Denise, often looking for donations for new homes. Specifically, items people don't have</p> |

- Idea is to create a “starter kit”, size of large Rubbermaid container, with items for homes.
- Arrange donations of containers, or products, cleaning supplies, etc. Storage locker donated to shelter that could store donations.
- coordination project, ideas around companies that would donate products. More of a one-off.
- could have a community event around assembling.
- when guys move in to housing they have nothing.
- Nothing to cook with means eating out.
- clients are already on limited income, more cost effective to cook at home, makes keeping them in housing easier.
- could organize a community drive where people assemble full baskets and donate them.
- CLC group acts as catalyst, goes to local business to let them know, gauge interest.
- new products only, not used.
- asking for donations from people with too much stuff, send out list, distribute “if you have anything you are not using, donate!”
- possible booth at Christie pits during summer, have donation drop-off there.
- offer to pick up items as well
- highlight the stories of these men, moving out into empty apartments
- individual committee members can reach out to direct neighbours to collect items, make kits together.
- reach out to businesses for donations of disposable items (toilet paper, paper towels, garbage bags, etc)

2- taking residents to the library

- full of resources, computer access,
- integrated with the drop in programming

3-book drive

4- action groups within the drop in (incorporate library idea) cleanup of Irene

parkette, cleanup day organized by councillor, shelter residents volunteer to participate
-BIA- teaming with Sistering in gardening projects

5- gallery space in LOFT geared towards youth artists
-other space could partially be curated by CLC members, highlight local artists,
- hold a fundraiser
-back laneway has 2 murals by youth artists that need to be updated, could work with artists, consult with youth in the community/shelter

6- online project, stories from Bloorcourt Village, highlight local residents and what they're doing,
-the history of Bloorcourt made into online graphic.
-story project that involves residents from shelter
-stories part of the gallery project, "make the community aware of who is living next door"
-have volunteers form a creative writing group, get them thinking creatively
-make posters of stories, place around neighbourhood to show the diversity of Bloorcourt
-acknowledge those in the neighbourhood who deserve recognition

7- neighbourhood cookbook
-community gardens at Christie pit, look into getting a plot

Q: will there be leadership roles for men in the shelter in conjunction with these projects?

A: just starting to get to know the clients, talents and backgrounds will emerge over time

-look to individuals who have been in the shelter system and are now out
-giving and encouraging independence leads

to higher chances of successful recovery,

8- community open mic night in Loft kitchen
-share songs, poetry, talents,

9- community events: skating in Christie pits
-film night in Christie pits, films curated by CLC and residents

-music class, or music therapy,

-could ask Long and Mcquade to sponsor.

-hold a drive for instruments, donations for house instruments

-creative activities to inspire confidence, get people active and thinking creatively

-drumming circle

Q: what would be the first thing to drive community support/attention?

A: attract attention and involvement, then solicit donations and do outreach activities

Q: first event at CONC?

A: "before asking people for help, we should let them know who they're helping"

-market through stories, show the humanity of residents

-hold an event at CONC that's drop in based, low commitment, low participation, easy to access.

Q: formal grand opening?

A: Waiting until warmer weather, work on grand opening with CLC,

- record stories and write them in a way that's compelling, ask participants if they want their stories shared

-read stories for the grand opening, through speakers or written material

-network with local artists to work on project
-shelter staff can gauge who would like to participate

-Sam will compile rough idea of goals

-for next meeting, will solidify how to organize going forward

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -will be useful to get more specific re: deadlines and goals. - need to decide on a date, content areas, create working groups -don't want to over tax committee members with too many tasks -moving forward: start with small simple task, don't be afraid to fail, find out what works, keep participants engaged and having fun. -avoid starting something and having it drop off -call for community volunteers, see who wants to help out |
| <p>6. Scheduling of Future CLC meetings (5 minutes)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Sam away for end of Feb, -can meet in 3 weeks: Wed. Feb. 15, or, 1st week of march <p>Next meeting: Feb. 15</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -will send out summary |
| <p>7. Closing Remarks</p> | |