

Overview

BC Housing and the City of Vancouver are engaging with neighbours early in the development process for the proposed supportive housing at 1925 Southeast Marine Drive at Beatrice Street.

As part of the early engagement, BC Housing hosted two Neighbourhood Dialogue sessions on March 8 and 9, 2022 with a total of 21 community members in attendance. The virtual sessions featured short presentations followed by roundtable discussion where participants could ask questions and share feedback about the proposal.

This document provides a summary of the two Neighbourhood Dialogue sessions that took place for the proposed supportive housing at 1925 Southeast Marine Drive at Beatrice Street. It includes feedback shared by community members in the meeting, with corresponding responses from the project team including BC Housing, the City of Vancouver, and the non-profit building operator, The Kettle Society.

Summary of Feedback: Neighbourhood Dialogue Sessions

1. Community members expressed a desire to know about who will live in the building, including:

- How residents will be selected to live in the new homes
 - *The project team and the building operator responded:* People become homeless for many different reasons. We interview people who might want to live here and ensure their needs can be met by the services and supports provided by the non-profit housing operator.
- If this housing could be specifically for seniors
 - *The project team responded:* We do have housing that is dedicated for seniors and seniors may be future tenants in this building. We need to continue building housing for all ages to address the housing affordability crisis Vancouver is facing.
- How seniors and people with mobility challenges will be able to navigate the hills in the neighbourhood
 - *The building operator responded:* We will work with the building architects to make the building entrance accessible. We have many tenants with mobility challenges in our other buildings and our team provides support to those who need help navigating the area.
- If the housing is meant to be transitional or if people could stay longer term
 - *The project team responded:* This is supportive housing not transitional housing. Some people may move on but there are some that will need support for the rest of their lives. It's going to be a variety of people coming in to live here.

Neighbourhood Dialogue Meeting Summary

Supportive Housing in Vancouver – Southeast Marine Drive at Beatrice Street

2. Community members sought clarification on building management and the types of supports that would be available to tenants, including:

- Suggestions that there are not enough services and transit options in the neighbourhood for residents of supportive housing
 - *The building operator responded:* We will ensure all residents are provided the support they need in the building and in the community. We have a vehicle staff can use to take people to appointments.
- If staff are on site 24/7
 - *The building operator responded:* Yes, there will be staff on site 24/7. The non-profit housing operator will also have a phone line that neighbours can call if needed.
- How community safety would be maintained
 - *The project team responded:* This is a residential building, it's not unlike any other building with renters. Staff are on site 24/7 and available to residents if needed.
- What services would be available to residents, especially those dealing with addictions
 - *The building operator responded:* There are many different reasons why people are accessing supportive housing. Everybody needs different supports and we work to help people stay healthy in our buildings.

3. Community members sought clarification on how sites are selected for supportive housing, including:

- How this site was selected
 - *The project team responded:* The site is owned by the City of Vancouver, it's close to transit and is designated for residential use.

4. Community members shared feedback on building height and design elements, including:

- A concern about parking and bottlenecking traffic on Beatrice St.
 - *The project team responded:* The proposal includes an underground parkade with seven parking spaces. The parking allotment meets the operational needs of the non-profit housing operator. Typically, residents and staff do not have vehicles.
- Concerns about lack of sidewalks, and placement of new sidewalks, as part of the development
 - *The project team responded:* We will work with the City on these details as the project goes through the rezoning and development process.
- A suggestion that six-storeys is too high to fit in with the aesthetic of the neighbourhood
 - *The project team responded:* There is an urgent need for supportive housing. This site is being carefully designed to be consistent with neighbourhood plans and so that it is compatible both with the existing and future neighbourhood, as well as its location adjacent to SE Marine Dr. We are proposing this height to provide homes to as many people as possible.
- A concern about loss of green space in the neighbourhood
 - *The project team responded:* We understand this is a green space that community members enjoy. However, it is not a dedicated, designated green space and is zoned for residential use.

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5. Community members wanted to understand the project approval process and available opportunities for providing feedback, including:

- How BC Housing and the City shared information with neighbours about the proposal
 - *The project team responded:* We delivered a postcard to neighbours two blocks around the site, and mailed a fact sheet to neighbours within five blocks of the site. We announced the project on social media, sent out a news release, connected directly with local community groups and organizations, and visited nearby businesses to share information and answer questions about the proposal. We also posted an informational sign on the site itself. We have a dedicated webpage where all of the materials are available, including in Traditional Chinese, Tagalog and Punjabi (www.letstalkhousingbc.ca/vancouver-marine).
- Where to provide feedback and receive updates about the project
 - *The project team responded:* There are multiple opportunities for the community to provide input on the proposal including attending a Neighbourhood Dialogue, submitting a comment during the Public Comment Period on the Let's Talk Housing website, and submitting a comment anytime on the Let's Talk Housing website, and phoning or emailing the Community Liaison at any time. The Community Liaison can be reached at communityliaison@bchousing.org or by calling 604-829-9321.

We are reaching out to the community early in the development process. Feedback collected during this early engagement will inform the development of a rezoning application that will be submitted to the City of Vancouver for review by City Council. When a rezoning application is submitted, a further City-led public engagement process will be held including an open house and a public hearing.

Opportunities for Community Feedback

In addition to the Neighbourhood Dialogue sessions, community members can also provide feedback on the proposed supportive housing at 1925 Southeast Marine Drive at Beatrice Street through the channels listed below. BC Housing and the City of Vancouver are reaching out to community early in the development process. Feedback collected during this early engagement will inform the development of a rezoning application that will be submitted to the City of Vancouver for review by City Council. When a rezoning application is submitted, a further City-led public engagement process will be held including an open house and a public hearing.

Public Comment Period

A Public Comment Period is currently open on the BC Housing Let's Talk webpage. From February 21, 2022 to March 18, 2022 community members can submit feedback about the proposed supportive housing directly to the project team. As part of the Public Comment Period, a self-guided presentation with information about the development proposal is available to review at www.letstalkhousingbc.ca/vancouver-marine.

Let's Talk Housing Webpage

BC Housing is accepting feedback at any time through an online comment form available on the Let's Talk Housing webpage at www.letstalkhousingbc.ca/vancouver-marine.

BC Housing Community Liaison Email and Phone

A Community Liaison is available Monday to Friday from 9:00am to 4:00pm, for community members to contact via phone or email. Community members can submit comments and ask questions on the project and receive responses from BC Housing. The Community Liaison can be reached at communityliaison@bchousing.org or by calling 604-829-9321.

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Next Steps



Dates in the timeline are approximate and subject to change.

For more information, please visit letstalkhousingbc.ca/vancouver-marine

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