



**Canadian Mental
Health Association**
Kelowna

Community Advisory Committee - Meeting Minutes

Ellis Place | 1051 Ellis Street
April 20, 2021, 5:30 – 6:15 | Zoom

1) Welcome, land acknowledgement and introductions

- The Facilitator welcomed attendees and began the meeting.

2) Update on Ellis Place

- CMHA Kelowna
 - i) Interior health is running a goal-setting program with the residents, which is proving to be popular. Residents are encouraged to set meaningful goals and check in weekly on goal progress. When goals are achieved, they are entered into a draw for a gift card.
- BC Housing
 - i) No updates this month.

3) Ellis Place – Roundtable Discussion

- Challenges or concerns
 - i) Community Representative: There has been an increase in individuals camping in the north end area. This is a concern, as there has been an increase in discarded needles, other garbage, and theft.

CMHA Kelowna: Ellis Place staff have been engaging with individuals in the park when they are noticed. Bylaw is called if there is evidence that they are camping – eg. Tents are set up.

Community Policing: Reminds community representatives that anyone in the community can spend time in the park. The bylaw infraction occurs if they set up a place to sleep, referred to as an “abode”. Bylaw has increased their patrols in this area. This increase in people sheltering outside is common for our community in the springtime.

- ii) Community Representative: There is a new building manager in the area that should be introduced to Jason Bedell from Community Policing.

Community Policing: (Jason) Agreed to meet with the new building manager

and encourages community representatives to reach out to Jason through email anytime. Communication with Jason is encouraged outside of these meetings as well.

- iii) Community Representative: Concerned about the individual's hanging out front of Ellis Place. There have been some incidents of pedestrians being harassed by those individuals

CMHA Kelowna: We were made aware about a concern related to this and Ellis Place has agreed to increase the staff presence out front of the building. CMHA Kelowna can commit to understand specifically what Ellis Place is doing to address this and will report back to the committee.

- iv) Community Representative: Has noticed an increase in package theft from the Waterscapes building. The building is installing security cameras to deal with this concern.

Community Policing: Are these thefts being reported? There has not been a general increase of package theft in this area.

CMHA Kelowna: Ellis Place monitors items that are brought into the building by residents and can ensure that any packages coming into the building have the resident's name on them.

4) Opportunities

- Strong Neighbourhoods Program: Annual Neighbour Day is on Sunday May 2nd. You can go to the website and make a pledge to do a neighbourly act. Everyone who does a pledge gets a neighbour pack with swag and resources. The next neighbourhood grants intake is in June. Community clean ups seem to be popular and the RDCO can assist by providing supplies and then removing the garbage collected.

More information on the website: kelowna.ca/neighbourhoods

More information on community clean ups:

https://www.regionaldistrict.com/media/281075/Com_Clean_Up_Poster.pdf

- CMHA Kelowna: We have an outreach team that connects with individuals who are sheltering outside and can assist them in accessing shelter beds or meeting their other basic needs. With the increase in individuals, outdoors community members can call the outreach team or can provide the outreach team's number to homeless individuals if they are in need of assistance.

CMHA Kelowna Outreach Team contact: 250-801-6963

5) Action items and next steps

- Jason to connect with new property manager.
- Jason to connect with property manager at Waterscapes with regards to increased package theft.
- CMHA Kelowna to ensure packages have resident's names on them when they are being brought into Ellis Place.
- CMHA Kelowna to provide details on how Ellis Place staff are addressing residents at the front of the building.

UPDATE: We have examined the camera system and identified areas of improvement, which would allow staff to more clearly see what is happening in front of the building. At this time, we are looking at quotes to change out the system. Meantime, staff will continue with spot checks out in front of the building.

Next Meeting Date: TBD



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