

Wednesday, July 04, 2007

Turning Point Recovery Society (1984)

Re: Minutes of Neighbourhood Consultation Meeting De Beck Elementary, June 28, 2007

Present:

Neighbourhood: Kathy, Sharon, Barbara,
TPRS: Brenda Plant; Gary Schubak
Consultants: Doug Purdy, Jack Clerkson
Guest: Vince Battistelli, Program Manger – VCH: Richmond
Health Services & Executive Director – Richmond
Addiction Services

1. Minutes will be available on Turning Point's Web Site. Only the first names of participants will be published. No other personal information will be posted (for privacy reasons).
2. Vince Batistelli was introduced as a guest to speak about his role in the City of Richmond, the need for services, the services provided, and objectives of Richmond Health Services. He was also present to comment on any concerns and questions NLC residents might have about services in general about addiction and in particular about Turning Point, including the need for the housing proposed.
3. Rezoning Application – It is projected that it will be filed on Tuesday, July 3rd. (actually filed on Wednesday, July 4th). However, the building grade is not set yet as the project's Civil Engineer has been occupied and needs to do a Site Services Analysis in order to determine existing service capacity and to establish the grade for the buildings. Without the final grade, the design and landscape plan cannot be completed. The analysis will take approximately 3-4 weeks to complete.
4. Demolition –
 - a. Proposed demolition of the existing house is part of the next phase of the project financing.
 - b. Turning Point has requested funding for removal of the existing house and will notify the neighbourhood in advance - advising also that demolition of the house doesn't mean the project is approved. A flyer will be distributed to the broader neighbourhood advising them about the timing of the prospective demolition of the house for safety and site

investigation purposes. The NLC also proposed a sign advising of the demolition, fencing around the site for safety purposes, and notification of neighbours in advance by mail, email, and via the Turning Point Website.

5. A round table discussion was held with all present that specifically provided neighbours with the opportunity to express concerns and pose questions about addiction, programs, recovery and specific aspects of the proposal.
6. Children's Safety Issues
 - a. Concern was expressed about the potential for needles and other paraphernalia being left in parks and school grounds by TPRS residents.

Turning Point residents are screened before intake and must be detoxified for 48 hours before admission. Our program requires that residents participate in abstinent based services including individual and group counselling, life-skills, stress management, conflict resolution skill development, substance abuse education, employment and work skills development, health, and relapse prevention education.

In our 8 years on Odlin Road, ½ a block from a park, there has been no incident of problems in the area related to the Turning Point residents.

- b. Concern also expressed about children being molested on the way to/from schools.

Turning Point does not accept referrals from individuals with violent criminal histories. In our 25 year history there has not been one incident of child molestation by a resident while at Turning Point.

- c. Concern was expressed that TPRS residents are transient and not homeowners and therefore do not get to know the neighbours and do not care as much about the home and the neighbourhood.

Priority for placement at the Ash Street residence will be given to Richmond residents, particularly women. Our residents participate in neighbourhood activities and welcome neighbours to drop by and spend time at our site.

7. Density
 - a. Concerned about 40 people on a .5 acre lot

Turning Point's proposed development of the site on Ash Street does not exceed density limits for the size of the property. The concern surrounding this may be that the issue is not so much about the number of individuals but the number of recovering individuals that will be living on site.

The number of units was determined by evaluating program effectiveness based on existing models. All three of TPRS's existing primary residences operate with 9-10 individuals per house, which is the ideal number for group counselling. The number of units in transitional residences was determined by examining the density allowances for the site, management issues for the Site Coordinator and cost effectiveness issues.

Turning Point's proposal aims to fill a need in the community for supportive housing. We are proposing to provide two 10-bed primary recovery facilities (one for men and one for women) and a transitional housing facility for up to 20 individuals on Ash Street. One of the 2 primary recovery facilities will be devoted to serving women and two 2-bedroom suites in the transitional housing residence will be devoted to serving single mothers with young children.

b. Concerned about the size of the buildings

The houses have been designed to blend into the neighbourhood in both size and form. Density limits are within the normal range for the size of the property and number of individuals to be housed there.

c. Solutions to some of the issues:

- Turning Point to provide information to the community about our residents i.e. "de-mystify" who TPRS residents are.
- Provide a model for neighbours to see the size and functionality of the site as it is planned – a visual of the proposed project.
- Have neighbours visit existing facilities.