

SUMMARY, MCCAULEY COMMUNITY SAFETY MEETING TUESDAY MAY 15, 2018

FACILITATOR:

Mark Davis, REACH Edmonton, McCauley Community Coordinator

INVITED PANEL (Harm Reduction; Safe Consumption; Needle Clean Up):

Don Belanger (City of Edmonton, Capital City Clean Up, Program Manager)

Cecilia Blasetti (Boyle McCauley Health Centre, Executive Director)

Dr. Kathryn Dong (Royal Alexandra Hospital, Inner City Health and Wellness, Medical Director)

Dr. Tally Mogus (Boyle McCauley Health Centre, Physician)

Erica Schoen (Safe Consumption Services, Director)

ATTENDANCE:

Total: 45:

Residents: 23 (51%)

Service Agency/Health Sector: 14 (AB Health, BGCBiggs, Boyle McCauley Health Centre, Boyle Street Community Services, Edmonton Intercultural Centre, E4C, Mustard Seed, Street Works)

McCauley Revitalization Steering Committee: 5

REACH Edmonton: 4

McCauley Community League Board: 1

McCauley Safety Council: 2

Abundant Communities: 1

City of Edmonton: 2 (incl. Office of Ward 6 City Councillor and NET)

Business: 5 (incl. Chinatown BIA, Viva Italia DA and two pharmacies)

EPS: 3 (incl. Beat Constables Andrew Melney and Matthew Boyce, and Sgt. Derrick Tabaka)

MLA Office: 1

Several independent community leaders amongst resident group

SUMMARY:

- Mark introduced meeting by noting that the Community Safety Meeting mechanism has become a community-owned initiative with dozens of partners. As such, REACH Edmonton branding has been removed from all meeting materials, and the McCauley Safety Council has been invited to use the meetings as a means for engaging community - and the MCL Board has been invited to do the same
- Elisa Zenari presented **overview of McCauley Safety Council**
All present were familiar with resources distributed by Safety Council, including "Who to Call" postcard and LEVER (Neighbourhood Response) booklet
- Mark provided update on **Running Horse Saloon's** application to AGLC for Minors Prohibited Liquor License, including the number of Objectors (26); information flow between AGLC, REACH, community, Objectors, City Councillor and Minister Mason; AGLC's rejection of the application; and the subsequent hearing requested by the applicant

- Panel Discussion (Harm Reduction; Safe Consumption; Needle Clean Up):
 - Good atmosphere with respectful, inclusive and tolerant discussion
 - Less concern about Safe Consumption Services than about organized crime and its connection to drug dealing, gangs and problem properties
 - Little resistance to Harm Reduction as an approach
 - Significant questioning of the “clustering” of services
 - Panel response: Sites are located where they are needed most; Sites are primarily serving individuals already frequenting the area, rather than from outside the area; Sites are not “stand-alone,” but are embedded within existing service providers who provide a broad range of additional services; There is a possibility of other sites opening elsewhere if the need arises; Mobile services could be an option
 - Group discussed the importance of statistics for future evaluation of the impact of Safe Consumption Services on the community
 - Panel was pleased with the community engagement; indicated a desire to keep the lines of communication open with the community, to provide future updates on the functioning of Safe Consumption Services and hear any concerns from the community
 - Erica Schoen extended invitation to community to tour BSCS Safe Consumption Site. REACH Community Convener has followed up with Erica
 - Re: Needle clean up:
 - Group discussed the existence of several services for needle pick up. Most in the group were not aware of all services. Discussed the need for wider distribution of accurate, comprehensive info on all clean up services i.e. Who is collecting? How many?
 - City of Edmonton (NET, Capital City Clean Up) is now creating a print resource/guide for needle clean up and disposal. McCauley Safety Council and Revitalization is awaiting the City resource - and is looking at creating a McCauley specific resource consistent with City messaging.
 - City of Edmonton response (**Capital City Clean Up**):
 - When a needle is found on private property, the property owner is responsible for disposal. The property owner and/or resident is encouraged to report the discovery of the needle to 311, in order for the City of Edmonton to track discarded needles
 - When a needle is found on public/City property call 311. If it is an urgent situation (ie. near a school or playground), Fire Rescue Services will be dispatched. If non-urgent, 311 will send a request to Capital City Clean Up. CCCU operates 7 days/week from 10AM to 4PM. In most circumstances, CCCU will be able to clean up on the day of the call
 - Group discussed the need to track numbers on an ongoing basis for future evaluation of the impact of Safe Consumption Services on the community
 - Group discussed the need for sustained reporting of needle finds, and the need for increased cooperation amongst all parties for reporting a full count of needles picked up by all services
 - CCCU indicated that reporting will influence where they choose to locate needle drop boxes in the future

- Notable sense of camaraderie and connectedness displayed amongst all present following the meeting
- Group discussed **future Safety Meetings:**
 - July/ August: **CPTED** (Crime Prevention through Environmental Design) for households and businesses; non-sales-oriented information on **security systems** for residents
Follow Up: EPS Sgt. Paul Looker has agreed to present to the group at next meeting re. CPTED and CFMH (Crime Free Multi Housing)
 - Desire for broader conversation about organized crime, gangs, illegal drug distribution and the connection to problem properties
 - Group unanimous that 7-9PM on weeknights was a successful meeting time
 - Ian Amundson (BGCBigs) has offered their facility for future Community Safety Meetings