

**Notes: Youth Housing Task Force Meeting,
Threshold House, 2095 Granite, November 8, 2016, 5:30-6:30 pm**

In attendance: Bill, Christine, Mark, Jen, Maureen, Emily, Guy. Regrets: James, Markus, Lajah, Ravi. James told Bill to let the group know that his wife is pregnant and they are getting a scan tonight.

1. **Meeting called to order** at 5:35 pm. Acknowledgment that we are holding our meeting on the traditional territory of the Coast Salish and L'kwungen peoples.
2. **Introductions and Updates:** Welcome to Guy Dagenais, Board member, Threshold Housing and Emily Rasmussen, student at Belmont. This is the first time they have attended.
3. **Notes from June 13 meeting.** Notes accepted.
4. **Belmont Survey and Interview:** We completed a survey of Royal Bay Secondary and Edward Milne Community School in June. We were unable to do Belmont, as the Principal, Ray Miller, was concerned that there were too many surveys going on at the same time. Christine met with Ray and interviewed him about his perceptions concerning youth housing. Christine also asked Ray if he would be willing to distribute the survey now, and he asked for a copy before giving the OK. (After our meeting Bill sent Ray a copy. Bill has also discussed with Ravi the potential of sending the survey to Belmont and West Shore Learning through the School Board. Ravi will pursue this). Hopefully we can complete the survey this month. Bill thanked Christine for all her work in interviewing Ray and following up.
5. **Update from Threshold:** Mark has been contacted by Greater Victoria Housing to design a purpose built facility within the new apartment they are building behind Pacific Centre's new centre on Goldstream Avenue. Greater Victoria Housing has received approval from the Province to build the new facility. It is very exciting to have a purpose built facility for the WestShore. Greater Victoria Housing and Threshold are developing a Memorandum of Understanding for the housing. Unfortunately, it will take 2 years to finish the building and move youth into the building. Our challenge now is to find a place to house youth until the new building opens.
6. **Boys and Girls Club Housing:** Jeff could not attend, but has let Bill know that they have 10 beds in private homes available for youth, but they have had trouble filling them. Bill will have Jeff contact Mark. This will be a good way to provide some housing until the new build opens. B&G have a number of programs and housing for youth (<http://www.bgcvic.org/youth-family-and-parenting-programs/youth-care-families>). We should work together to provide safe housing for youth while not re-inventing the wheel.
7. **Rotary Update:** Maureen brought the group up to date and outlined the history of their involvement. Rotary will fundraise for a youth housing project, but there needs to be a specific project. There has already been \$2200 donated to the project. Maureen is working on having another general meeting of the community and Rotary.
8. **HPS Innovative Funding:** Bill just received the info about this yesterday. It appears this group wants to do a study of the need for youth housing in the Victoria area. It was a consensus of the meeting that there have been enough studies and we need to get on with building housing. Bill will follow up with HPS and discuss with Don Eliot from the Coalition to End Homelessness.
9. **Next steps:** We need to complete the survey at Belmont so we will have an accurate picture of the need for youth housing in the Westshore, from the students' point of view. Bill will pursue.
10. **Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 6:50. Next meeting at the call of the Chair, in early January and in the Westshore. Mark was thanked for providing the snacks. Several people took the opportunity to look around the new Threshold House.