

**Noraye Fjeldstad**

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**From:** William Johnston [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 14, 2017 12:03 PM  
**To:** Lisa Helps (Mayor)  
**Subject:** Mt Edwards Court

**Categories:** Awaiting Staff Response

Dear Ms. Mayor:

I urge you to to refuse to support the re-zoning of Mt Edwards Court. It should remain as a Nursing home for the elderly, rather than as supportive housing for people with low to medium needs. Placing 52 more people ( 92 in Total ) with serious addiction issues next to an elementary school is surely unnecessary and dangerous. I know that it was convenient when there was an ongoing crisis with tent city, but now the use of the facility for these purposes seems unnecessary and dangerous. Surely there are better locations than one next to an elementary school.

waj

William Johnston  
999 Burdett Avenue,  
Victoria, B.C. V8V 3G7

## Noraye Fjeldstad

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**From:** June Tatchell [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 20, 2017 3:40 PM  
**To:** Lisa Helps (Mayor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Chris Coleman (Councillor); Pam Madoff (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Margaret Lucas (Councillor); Marianne Alto (Councillor)  
**Subject:** Mount Edwards Court  
**Categories:** Respond through Mayor and Council inbox, Awaiting Staff Response

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing today to express my concern, since it is my understanding that the Cool Aide Society have asked Council to rezone Mount Edwards Court in order that it is able to house more people than presently there.

I am quite disturbed with this happening, with an Elementary School across the street. These young children are already bothered by seeing bad behaviour, swearing, discarded needles etc. These are the future citizens of this City.

Also, the presence of these folk in Mount Edwards Court has had a serious effect on the school, with many parents withdrawing their children. Also, enrolment is down and the school is having a difficult time surviving. I am not a parent nor do I have anyone attending CCC School and I do not live in the area, however, I have been watching the development of what is going on at Mount Edwards Court very closely and have spoken with parents and others involved with the School.

If, in fact this does go before Council for a vote on rezoning, I will be watching the vote very closely.

With great concern, June Sharman

## Noraye Fjeldstad

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**From:** Donna Longley <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 05, 2017 5:04 PM  
**To:** Lisa Helps (Mayor); Rich.Coleman.MLA@leg.bc.ca  
**Subject:** Mount Edwards Court - too high density numbers  
  
**Categories:** lucas in progress

April 5, 2017

Re: Mount Edwards Court temporary Use contract with Cool-Aid expired on March 31, 2017

Why have the current residents at Mount Edwards Court not moved out of the facility as of March 31, 2017? The community was promised when residents first moved in over a year ago, following tent city that the arrangement was temporary and residents would vacate the building as of March 31, 2017 when the contract expired. The neighbours and the school have continued reasons to lack trust in the promises made to us by BC Housing and by the Cool Aid Society.

Our son attends Christ Church Cathedral School (CCCS), and I do not support changing the zoning from one social need to give way to another social need. A nursing home is a better fit for the neighbourhood and for Christ Church Cathedral elementary and middle school.

Changing the zoning to fit a low to medium needs supportive housing facility will have a negative impact on the school, not to mention the property values and the safety of the neighbourhood. I have reason to be concerned that an increase from 38 residents to over 100 residents will create an unsafe environment similar to the neighbourhood surrounding the former Central Baptist Care home on Johnson Street. In February, 2017, 32 of the **109 police calls** to the Johnson Street area were for public disorder complaints - up from nine in February the year before. Single resident occupancy rooms are temporary homes at best and people who accept living in a residence with only a toilet and bed are likely to lack stability and the skills to live independently as respectful, quite neighbours.

Safety for children attending the school is a concern for many CCCS families. Supportive housing for people with low to medium needs is still too high of a risk to have next to a school. There is no example of a facility like this anywhere else in BC, located only 18 steps from an elementary school. The parents and neighbours have lost trust that Cool Aid can run a safe facility due to continued problems the school and neighbours have experienced throughout the Cool Aid contract. There has been an ongoing lack of transparency from Cool Aid when there were issues with the residents of Mount Edwards Court with the police and emergency services. I learned during a recent community meeting that a reason Police calls reduced from Mount Edwards Court is because Cool Aid has been instructed by their management to use the non-emergency police number, which reduces police call statistics for the building. As a community we are no longer able obtain police call statistics for our precinct area, which we used to receive and now are being denied access to requests for statistical information.

Christ Church Cathedral School is the only elementary school located in downtown Victoria which is a needed service for young families living downtown. With the new children's park being developed on the former tent city site children need to be safe to play in the park plus in the school playground. Families will not bring their children to the park if there is unwanted or worrying behavior from nearby residents of the proposed 100 plus residents, many suffering from mental health/addiction problems, despite what many

believe are false assurances made by Cool Aid that residents will remain in their rooms. The proposed plan to house over 100 people at Mt. Edwards Court is still too high a number because disruption from ambulances and fire trucks attending calls at the Mount Edwards facility is distressing to the neighbours and the children attending the school. There is a concern that another dangerous, criminal element will loiter around the building, preying on vulnerable residents, attempting to sell drugs, posing a safety issue for the neighbourhood as experienced at the Johnson Street shelter facility. When children witness people outwardly displaying distressing and criminal behaviours due to mental health issues or addictions, it negatively affects their young developing brains and emotional stability and happiness.

Mt. Edwards is zoned as a nursing home which is a much safer demographic for the school next door and for the neighbourhood.

Sincerely,

Donna Longley  
1343 Slater Street  
Victoria BC V8X 2P8  
Phone [REDACTED]

## Noraye Fjeldstad

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**From:** Christopher Schmidt [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 09, 2017 11:52 PM  
**To:** Lisa Helps (Mayor)  
**Subject:** Neighbours Oppose Homeless Housing at Mount Edwards Court  
**Attachments:** 2016 05 17 Transcript Neighbourhood Liaison Meeting May 17, 2016.pdf; 2016.05.31 Amendments for May 17, 2016 MECNM Draft Minutes.pdf; 160516 Mt Edwards Statement of Support FINAL 6.pdf; 160525 Revised Mt. Edwards Statement of Support - FINAL 9.pdf; Dispute with Cool Aid over March 22, 2016 Meeting Minutes Part 1.tiff; Dispute with Cool Aid over March 22, 2016 Meeting Minutes Part 2.tiff; Dispute with Cool Aid over March 22, 2016 Meeting Minutes Part 3.tiff

To Mayor Lisa Helps,

It is my understanding that BC Housing is presently operating the hard-to-house facility at Mount Edwards Court past its promised one-year end-date of March 31, 2017. It continues despite promising to end operations on this date and subject the usage to a rezoning process that would involve public consultation.

As it stands, the outcome of consultation is already known since several public consultations were already held in the form of weekly neighbourhood meetings hosted by your operator the Victoria Cool Aid Society from February to May of 2016. Most neighbours who attended those meetings opposed that usage of Mount Edwards. Some of that opposition was captured in amendments to the minutes of those meetings, the final of which is attached to this email since Cool Aid failed to incorporate it into its minutes. I am in a unique position to testify to what was said at these meetings since it was I who audio-recorded the dialogue at those meetings, and it was I who typed out transcripts of that dialogue, and based on those transcripts, and it was I who carefully wrote and submitted the amendments. These amendments include more accurate versions of what was said including neighbourhood protest and criticism omitted by Cool Aid.

Attached are two versions of the neighbour's survey that Cool Aid refers to in its minutes as simply the neighbours' "Statement of Support"; as you can see, the title is ironic since it is the opposite: it is a survey proposing an alternate usage. Nearly everyone who signed wants the reintroduction of a nursing home for non-homeless and not previously homeless, despite the language later being diluted by outside interference (FINAL 6 received neighbourhood support before FINAL 9).

As well, attached is a three-part scan of my file for one of the meetings (March 22, 2016); in practice Cool Aid discouraged the voicing of opposition at its meetings and avoided recording neighbourhood opposition in its minutes and, when it was raised that these meetings where many people are coming to protest the usage of Mount Edwards could be recast by Cool Aid as a framework to justify future rezoning (by its repeated attempts to obtain a document of neighbourhood support/dialogue), both Don McTavish and Kathy Stinson of Cool Aid

denied it (see the end of the transcript of May 17, 2016 meeting) yet shortly before the next scheduling meeting they cancelled all future meetings.

You are now informed: the neighbourhood opposes housing the homeless at Mount Edwards Court. The validity of those amendments can be evidenced in court, and it is my understanding that any pushing ahead with this project in the context of opposition by stakeholders constitutes causing damages to me and other stakeholders who stand to lose the enjoyment of an intrinsic quality of their stakes.

Life in downtown Victoria is being rapidly destroyed with every homeless person that the government houses downtown subjecting productive citizens to trash, feces, needles and crime by derelicts that scream, rant, and threaten passersby. Downtown should be for employment, retail, and tourism but bureaucratic blindness continues to cost every person with business downtown. It will not end until the government stops to consider the cost of its ill-considered policies towards those addicted to drugs and decides to treat addiction as mental illness and crimes as punishable and stops attempting the unsustainable task of housing in this high-cost market those who cannot afford it but who are migrating here in ever-increasing numbers.

In the meantime, do not bring the madness here. This is a quiet, green neighbourhood that will be destroyed by the spread of the revolting Pandora/Quadra/Johnson mess. Recognize the opposition and abide by the input of neighbouring stakeholders who build, contribute, and support this city and province.

Sincerely,

Christopher Schmidt

## Noraye Fjeldstad

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**From:** caroline stigrant [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 26, 2017 2:17 AM  
**To:** Victoria Mayor and Council  
**Subject:** Mt Edward Court Rezoning and Cathedral School

Dear Mayor and Council:

It is with a burdened mind that I write this, at 2:00 am, having attended the recent CALUC meeting at the Cathedral School on Monday night. Let us at least at least move forward, whatever the direction of this request, it has been a drawn out process with plenty of emotional energy spent on all sides.

This will be my last appeal to you, our elected officials, to do the right thing in the Cathedral Hill neighbourhood. Although Victoria Cool Aid Society presented a 'watered down' proposal of who they will house (versus the original low barrier housing proposition), after considerable reflection I feel that the request for housing 80+ individuals with significant mental health / substance abuse history / and 'low to moderate needs' across the street from my children's elementary school and indeed our community, remains inappropriate. I will outline 4 reasons why I feel this way:

1. seniors are a more stable option for housing next to a school and cathedral community - why would we take even a small risk (though some feel the risk is significant) with the emotional health and safety of schoolchildren? I do not understand why we have not had serious dialogue about seniors housing at that site, which seems such a natural fit.
2. proposed 80+ units will increase the concentration of potentially vulnerable people, hence those who might 'prey' upon them, leading to a general decline of the community - which, once rezoning has occurred, would be to the permanent detriment of the neighbourhood
3. a Cool Aid representative informed me at the meeting that if individuals relapsed into significant drug use while living in that facility, they would be managed accordingly - with options including detox (which would require that individual's consent to be sent there) or finding alternative Cool Aid housing (which could take MONTHS - in the process leading to further destabilization of perhaps other marginally functioning individuals). The supposed reassurance of 3 people on staff (one of whom is a janitor and another kitchen staff) was hardly reassuring.
4. even if there are no 'events' witnessed by children or families, the perception of what might be going on inside the building remains unacceptable to many parents, hence the future of our school remains threatened from multiple student withdrawals, hence the school facing financial crisis that might lead to closure - why would you permit that to happen to our community?

Christ Church Cathedral School is in its 26th year - the school is established, has been compassionate and mindful of people in need, teaching and demonstrating social responsibility - it is still shocking to me that a public housing proposal of this nature has been made directly across the street. It simply does NOT pass the 'look/see' test.

Please do not permit rezoning that would allow the proposed Cool Aid facility at Mt. Edwards Court.

Yours truly,  
Caroline Stigrant

## Noraye Fjeldstad

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**From:** Elaine Culver <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 25, 2017 7:39 AM  
**To:** Victoria Mayor and Council  
**Subject:** Proposed expansion of Mt Edwards by Cool Aid Society  
**Categories:** Lacey in Progress, Awaiting Staff Response

> I am completely opposed to the proposed expansion of mt. Edwards. This facility should never have been allowed in the first place. The very idea of placing drug addicts and alcoholics within even 4 blocks of an elementary school should never have been permitted, let alone 18 steps. Why we would put the needs of alcoholics and drug addicts ahead of and before young vulnerable children is an insult to our society.

>

> These "hard to house" people are for the most part addicted. The very fact that the current facility is low barrier condones their illegal activities and I believe encourages it by that designation. I am of the belief that In order to support their lifestyle the majority of them have to resort to criminal activities; Our welfare rates to do supply them with enough funds, nor should they. Through my taxes I'm already supporting them.

>

> Even the clients that are presently in the facility on Johnson st which houses approximately the number of residents Cool Aid and the Province want to house in Mount Edwards state it doesn't even help them. They're subjected to the abuse of the criminals and drug abusers in-house, and they feel threatened and want to get out. Drug dealers and prostitution swarm to the area which is something that no residential neighbourhood should be subjected to. Housing about 109 people in a small facility is an explosive powder keg which has been proven at the Johnson street facility.

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> Please do not put our neighbourhood and our school at risk. Sell this property.

Elaine Culver  
411- 1149 Rockland Avenue  
Victoria BC. v8V 4T5



## Noraye Fjeldstad

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**From:** webforms@victoria.ca  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 26, 2017 4:48 PM  
**To:** Victoria Mayor and Council  
**Subject:** Mayor and Council email

From: Daryl Elving-Klassen  
Email: [REDACTED]  
Reference :  
Daytime Phone : Not provided  
Re: Mount Edwards Court rezoning...

I have a young child at Christ Church Cathedral School, and am concerned about the Mount Edwards Court project. I believe with the right proposal, the right service provider, the right staffing, the right funding, and the right government, this project could be a success. Right now we have these things in place, but there is no guarantee this will be the case in the future.

I ask that Victoria's mayor and council refuse to allow rezoning unless the proposal includes a legally binding covenant that is registered on the title of the property that names the Anglican Diocese of BC (the owner of Christ Church Cathedral School property) as the beneficiary of that covenant.

The school has been in that spot in Fairfield for more than 20 years, and the Cathedral itself for much longer. The Cathedral and the school have been fantastic neighbours and great supporters of the local community. They are the only means of guaranteeing (with a legally binding covenant) that the Mount Edwards Court project is always managed in a way that benefits the whole community.

Sincerely,

Daryl Elving-Klassen

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IP Address: 184.71.14.170

## Noraye Fjeldstad

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**From:** Yolanda & Denis - new [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 27, 2017 4:58 PM  
**To:** Victoria Mayor and Council  
**Subject:** Mount Edwards re-zoning

Hi Mayor and council,

We are a senior couple who have lived in our Rockland Ave condo for almost 25 years. Along with many of our neighbours we feel that the city just is not listening to or caring about taxpayers living around the Mount Edwards site. What the Provincial Government and Cool Aid did by moving in the squatters from the Court House site was very maddening. The city seems to have just stood back and let this happen without taking into consideration the input from the surrounding area. The time has come where the city can actually listen to us and do something positive for the people who live in the affected area. Do not allow the rezoning of the site, keep it as it is.

We live on Rockland between Vancouver and Cook - 1/2 block from Mount Edwards. When we moved into the area in 1992 it was a quiet residential enclave just a few short blocks from all the amenities of Downtown and Fort Street. We would hear the odd siren at light as an ambulance made it's way to RJH. This was totally understandable as Fort Street is the main route to the hospital. Ever since the Squatter's Camp sprung up, then eventually Mount Edwards in it's current form, we very often hear sirens stopping close by day and night. This only underscores the change, for the worse, that has occurred in our neighbourhood. We have drastically cut back on our evening strolls around our once enjoyable neighbourhood. My wife and I used to go to Royals Hockey games and Harbourcats baseball games never worrying about the dangers that might be lurking in the dark, it always felt relatively safe. We haven't gone to a single game in the past 2 years because we have to pass through the ghettos on Pandora and Johnson Streets in the dark on our way home. The inhabitants of those places are just too unpredictable as we try to weave our way through the groups to get by. We've had to dodge tweekers riding their bicycles and skateboards on the sidewalks too often to trust their judgement or ability to avoid us. We often see open drug use and dealing. If you allow the rezoning of Mount Edward you would just be adding another ghetto. We simply do not trust the Cool Aid or BC Housing people to stick to their promises as they outlined them in their literature and meeting the other night at the Catholic School.

At that meeting an informal vote was called, reluctantly, by the chair. Approximately 80% of those present opposed the changes sought by Cool Aid.

Please listen to your constituents and do not allow the expansion of the operation at Mount Edwards Court.

Respectfully,

Denis & Yolanda Corbett  
104-1040 Rockland Ave

## Noraye Fjeldstad

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**From:** James Yahoo! Email [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 09, 2017 3:59 PM  
**To:** Victoria Mayor and Council; Lisa Helps (Mayor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Pam Madoff (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Chris Coleman (Councillor); Margaret Lucas (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); danmaxwell@[REDACTED]; ccrawford@[REDACTED]; hhartman@[REDACTED]; mngh.minister@gov.bc.ca; sramsay@[REDACTED]; Jon.Burbee@[REDACTED]; premier@gov.bc.ca; mflanigan@[REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Rezoning Proposal for Mount Edwards Court - Resounding NO!  
**Attachments:** CALUC meeting regarding Mount Edwards.docx.pdf

On Monday April 24, 2017, neighbours of Mount Edwards Court (MEC) and parents of children enrolled at Christ Church Cathedral elementary school, attended the Fairfield Gonzales Community Association Land Use Committee (CALUC) consultation meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to provide CALUC with information/community views concerning the proposed rezoning of MEC at 1002 Vancouver Street to accommodate a shelter facility for approximately 90 individuals, age 50+, who have mental and addiction issues. The meeting was held in the Christ Church Cathedral gymnasium and was hosted by CALUC. The gymnasium was packed.

The Victoria Cool Aid Society had 15 minutes to present plans followed by comments by the attendees. Each attendee was allowed two minutes to speak. At one point in the meeting a neighbour counted 168 attendees at the meeting. Due to the length of the meeting, many had to leave before the meeting ended, but clearly area residents and parents were opposed to the proposed usage for MEC. In fact, only 28, including some Cool Aid employees, supported the Cool Aid plan, and the rest opposed. That is overwhelming opposition to the Cool Aid proposal.

The community response to the proposal is not NIMBYism. Tent City residents were relocated and housed at MEC without any prior consultation with the community. The negative impact of the "social issues" caused by the 38 "low barrier" MEC residents was greatly underestimated by Cool Aid and BC Housing. It is now more than a year later and the issues of crime, drugs and violence continue because Cool Aid is not responsible for the behaviours of the residents the moment they leave MEC. We've been told that the demographics of the proposed residents will not be a problem, but based on experience, we know that this is not true. Warehousing that many people in one building will exacerbate the existing issues and the MEC residents will continue to traumatize the neighbourhood.

It is unfortunate that some of you did not attend the meeting. People fear for the safety of their children. MEC should never have been used as a facility of this type because of its proximity to the school and child related activities. You have an opportunity to correct a mistake by relocating the current residents, selling the building and using the funds

to build a facility that will be more suitable for the needs of the residents and away from schools, parks and other child-related structures. The MEC site could be used to satisfy projected housing needs for Fairfield families.

I presented at the meeting. Attached are my notes, which were also sent to David Biltek, FGCA Community Land Use Committee Chair.

Sincerely,

Shelley Campbell  
Fairfield Resident

Sent from my iPad

April 24, 2017

- My name is Shelley Campbell, Nearby Homeowner
- The question tonight should not be whether zoning should stand as is for Mount Edwards or rezoned as per the BC Housing request. The question should be whether the building should be used as a facility for people with addiction and mental health issues and unpredictable behaviours when it is adjacent to an elementary school, the YMCA, a new children's playground and the Pioneer Cemetery or repurposed or sold so that the land use would complement the neighbourhood rather than threaten the safety of neighbourhood residents.
- In addition, there is a very high probability that Mount Edwards has asbestos issues and is not seismically sound. In my opinion, it is a crummy old building and Cool Aid/BC Housing are prepared to spend too many dollars to renovate it when the proposed facility should not be there.
- While the transfer of the former Tent City residents to Mount Edwards provided expedient shelter to Tent City residents, the residents should never have been transferred to a facility located in a quiet residential area. The cost to the neighbourhood has been high – the elementary school children have been exposed to socially unacceptable behaviours, people are afraid to walk about, especially at night, items stolen, vandalized and even the attractive landscaping modified so that no one can engage in illegal activities behind the bushes.

- I support the transfer of the current residents to another facility and the building being sold. We are told that this is a buoyant real estate market so BC Housing could use the proceeds from the sale of Mount Edwards to build better treatment facilities, affordable housing and prevention programming.
  - Baptist Housing sold the property to BC Housing for use by Cool Aid, as they believed that it would do more good for the community than the other, higher bid from a developer. There was no community consultation and Baptist Housing/BC Housing and Cool Aid greatly underestimated or ignored the social issues that would be caused by the Mount Edwards residents.
  - Cool Aid is not responsible for behaviours when outside the building – and this is where the trouble begins.
    - Crime rates are up – and there are only 38 residents at this time. What will happen when the number of residents more than doubles?

CALUC meeting regarding Mount Edwards

## **Lacey Maxwell**

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**From:** Christopher Schmidt <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** May 17, 2017 10:22 PM  
**To:** Victoria Mayor and Council; Lisa Helps (Mayor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Pam Madoff (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Chris Coleman (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Margaret Lucas (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor)  
**Subject:** The April 24, 2017 Consultation for Mount Edwards Court is Misrepresented by the FGCA's CALUC Letter

Dear Mayor and Council,

I have received the CALUC summary for the April 24, 2017 community consultation regarding the proposed rezoning for 1002 Vancouver Street. The report contained so many misrepresentations and inaccuracies, I felt it proper to address them.

Firstly, the "Mount Edwrad[sic] Final Report" is written in such a poor manner, it brings to question the competency of the person who wrote it.

Secondly, at the April 24th, 2017 consultation, a video camera was angled in the direction of the microphones. It likely filmed Don McTavish of Cool Aid in the foreground, Steven Hammond, the three proposal supporters in front of Steven Hammond, and the all the rest of the proposal supporters who were clustered in the far-side-front-middle of the gymnasium. Around an hour and a half into the meeting, Steven Hammond asked for a pool to be taken and, as usual, claimed support. A show of hands was done.

The thing is that, due to the camera's angle, anyone viewing footage of the vote would likely get a very misleading impression when only 28/168 supported it.

As far as the vote of opposition, here is a link to a video showing the opposition that the camera likely missed (it shows the total opposition on the near (left) side but it does not pan over to the rear half of the far side of the gymnasium to show the same opposition there):

Thirdly, "That Vote" wasn't a vote. Using "vote" gives the impression of a count. Rather, it was an informal show of hands followed by a count of support and a (very low) estimate of opposition. Simply, the CALUC member could not have counted such a gymnasium full of crowded, overlapping hands.

In order to confront the "caveats that would modify the vote", here is some information.

Regarding a caveat: the "fellow standing close by" who lives "in the neighbourhood" and does "work for cool [sic] Aid" was likely Don McTavish of Cool Aid since he was sitting in the front row near the Chair and camera. The Cool Aid employee who was identified raising his hand was John Sherrat of Oak Bay.

Regarding another caveat: In short, the "non-voting 50" is a flat-out lie. The FGCA's own number for attendance is 150, to make up for the huge discrepancy between that and its underestimate for opposition the FGCA imagined 50 neutral attendees and stated that "they would have supported another option." Claiming 50 abstentions (non-voters) is a wildly hypocritical maneuver since the CALUC Chair explicitly stated that it would "not... get into options" but rather only have a simple show of hands of whether attendees



supported/opposed the proposal “as it stands”. No show of hands for abstentions was done, and likely for good reason, since had there been one, there would have been few or no hands.

Regarding another caveat: the FGCA suggests that the result be disregarded due to the presence of people from outside the neighbourhood, which is true hypocrisy since, after a local resident voiced concern about the raised hand of a man who is a proponent employee and Oak Bay resident, the FGCA refused the request “that only neighbours and nearby residents raise their hands.”

Regarding another caveat: the letter also reflects that “38 people spoke, 28 were opposed while 8 were in favour”, but adds the caveat that “if one was just to count the parents or just the neighbours who spoke that ratio would be different.” This is so sloppy. So I made notes from my audiorecording, and entered a summary into a spreadsheet.

If the speaker failed to provide rent/own and location information, I added it based on what I know of neighbours. 5 non-local Fairfield property owners either identified themselves or were known by me. All 8 local property owners were known. 2 parents who lived in Fairfield were assumed to be owners. If an unknown speaker simply identified as from “down the road” or Fairfield, it was concluded that they rented and that they were not from nearby. Most renters identified or were known. So to assist the CALUC’s inability to keep better records, this is my best conclusion of speakers who supported/opposed:

7 local renters, mostly oppose (4), especially the long-time residents.

4 renters from further in Fairfield: all support.

12 parents: all oppose, 6 want covenants, 5 identified as residing outside Fairfield.

2 local businesses: ALL OPPOSE.

8 local Fairfield property owners: ALL OPPOSE.

7 distant Fairfield property owners: ALL OPPOSE.

Fourthly, at the meeting, the CALUC spoke a summary that was very different from the letter. Yet the letter ends with a paragraph whose placement and structure gives the reader the impression that the content of the letter was approved by a multitude. As if to validate its absurdities, the paragraph dedicates itself to one person’s co-operative opening remark “You probably got it right”, a remark which was followed by a request for information. It was a single remark inflated into a narrative where “the people still at the meeting” were asked to advise if the CALUC “got it right” and the FGCA was told that “essentially [it] did” (get it right) with a few innocent flaws “but essentially right”. The paragraph says nothing about the next speaker who extensively criticized the FGCA for reporting more points in favour of the proposal than against the proposal at a meeting where there was a decisive show of hands, a criticism that was followed by the CALUC Chair promising “We will put in the report ‘overwhelming opposition’. OK?” And it says nothing about five more speakers who followed to voice opposition to the proposal and another speaker who testified that the FGCA and its CALUC are unfit to hold a public consultation on this issue.

In sum, the FGCA CALUC Chair broke his promise that he would report “overwhelming opposition” and instead wrote “So yes the vote appears on first blush to support denying the application but there are many caveats as mentioned above which may modify the vote”. That statement, the self-created caveats, and the creation of an imaginary 50 who “would have supported another option” seems designed to give the City leeway to ignore the overwhelming opposition.

If that is the FGCA’s way of not taking a side or position on an application, that is one hell of a way of not taking a side or position.

My observation is that the City of Victoria’s objective according to the Mayor’s Task Force for Housing Affordability is to increase housing for the poor. The City of Victoria knows that Fairfield neighbours have demanded that the FGCA not participate in CALUC. Yet the City has requested that the FGCA continue its

role operating CALUC. By putting the operation of CALUC with an organization that claims neutrality yet misrepresents public input, the City of Victoria gets the optics of public consultation.

Sincerely,  
Christopher Schmidt

## **REVISED Residents and Business Owner's Statement of Support Regarding the Future Use of Mt. Edwards**

We, the undersigned, are frustrated by ongoing effort of Victoria Cool Aid Society to obtain the appearance of consent, agreement, and dialogue with neighbours and business owners near Mt. Edwards, at 1002 Vancouver Street.

### **Background:**

In February 2016, the public learned that renovations were being done to change Mt. Edwards into low-barrier housing. Low-barrier housing (or no restrictions housing) is defined as "housing where tenants are **not** expected to abstain from using alcohol or other drugs or from carrying on with street activities while living on-site."

The Mt. Edwards facility is currently zoned R-K zone, which allows hospitals and nursing homes. Mt. Edwards is located across from an elementary school; therefore, any changes should and need to consider the safety and security of the students. Safety, security and community well-being is paramount to community members and business owners.

### **Given that:**

- Mt. Edwards is located in a residential neighbourhood and across the street from an elementary school,
- the Provincial Government allowed its land to be occupied on the court house lawn in the Autumn 2015,
- the Provincial Government unilaterally responded without consultation to establish a no-restrictions facility at Mt. Edwards for 38 individuals from the occupied property, with room for up to 100 or more after renovations,
- Victoria Police reveal that neighbourhood calls for service in and around the occupied land has increased by 46% since "tent city" has been established (including violence, open drug use, break-ins, thefts, public disorder, etc.)
- Victoria's Police Chief received unanimous support from City Council to fund extra policing due to the "criminal element", "gang members" "threats", "intimidation" & "drug trafficking" in and around the occupied land,
- moving "tent city" indoors, to Mt. Edwards on a permanent basis will entrench the same problems,
- our peaceful neighbourhood has been altered by these increased number of people attracted to it by the occupied property and by the Mt. Edwards facility, subjecting community residents to an increased burden of liability and an increased cost for security,
- the Provincial Government contracted the Cool Aid Society until March 31, 2017 to manage the facility with no process for the selection of operator,
- the Cool Aid Society is in a conflict of interest leading community meetings, and
- the Cool Aid Society refuses to demonstrate to the community how it is a positive addition to the neighbourhood.

### **We, the undersigned, support:**

- True consultation with the neighbourhood and adherence to neighbourhood input to use Mt. Edwards for housing that would reflect the residential neighbourhood and its proximity to an elementary school,
- Housing with supports reflective of our neighbourhood such as a nursing home for elders or mixed residential use (rental & nursing but NOT low-barrier housing), and
- A new operator who has the trust and support of the neighbourhood, to manage the facility and to build positive and respectful relationships with community residents.

|  |               |              |               |                       |                    |              |
|--|---------------|--------------|---------------|-----------------------|--------------------|--------------|
| Name                                     |               |              |               |                       |                    |              |
| Address                                  |               |              |               |                       |                    |              |
| Signature                                |               |              |               |                       |                    |              |
| Date                                     |               |              |               |                       |                    |              |
| Circle what best describes your interest | <i>Renter</i> | <i>Owner</i> | <i>Parent</i> | <i>Business owner</i> | <i>Parishioner</i> | <i>Other</i> |
| Optional Phone # & email                 |               |              |               |                       |                    |              |

Please scan the signed document and forward to [MadAsHell@telus.net](mailto:MadAsHell@telus.net) OR email and we will find a way to pick it up. Remember, you can make a difference in your community.

May 25, 2016

**REVISED** Residents and Business Owner's Statement of Support  
Regarding the Future Use of Mt. Edwards

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Please scan the signed document and forward to [MadAsHell@telus.net](mailto:MadAsHell@telus.net) OR email and we will find a way to pick it up. Remember, you can make a difference in your community.

May 25, 2016

## **Lacey Maxwell**

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**From:** Christopher Schmidt [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** May 23, 2017 7:52 AM  
**To:** Victoria Mayor and Council; Lisa Helps (Mayor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Pam Madoff (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Chris Coleman (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Margaret Lucas (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); danmaxwell@bchousing.org; mflanigan@bchousing.org; ccrawford@[REDACTED] hhartman@[REDACTED] mngh.minister@gov.bc.ca; sramsay@[REDACTED] on.Burbee@gov.bc.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca  
**Subject:** Original Statement of Support "160516" Got Far More Support Locally and It States That Locals Do Not Support Housing for the Homeless Nor The Previously Homeless at Mount Edwards Court  
**Attachments:** 160516 Mt Edwards Statement of Support FINAL.pdf; 160525 Revised Mt. Edwards Statement of Support - FINAL.pdf

To Mayor and Council and BC Housing representatives and officials,

BC Housing's current proposal seems to come directly from a Revised Statement that received signatures in May of last year. It is attached.

However, the Revised Statement did far worse locally than the Original Statement, which makes it very clear that locals do not support "housing [for] the homeless nor the previously homeless" at Mount Edwards Court. It is also attached.

To be clear, this email is about the "Residents and Business Owner's Statement of Support Regarding the Future Use of Mt. Edwards" [document titled "160516 Mt Edwards Statement of Support FINAL"] (the Original Statement) and the "REVISED Residents and Business Owner's Statement of Support Regarding the Future Use of Mt. Edwards" [document titled "160525 Revised Mt. Edwards Statement of Support – FINAL"] (the Revised Statement).

On August 5, 2016 these signed Statements came into my possession from Stephen Hammond.

When I received the statements from Stephen, they were clipped in two large stacks. Each stack was identified with a sticky note. The notes had the writings "95 Old Statement Alpha" and "Revised 104 Alpha". The notes were on the Original Statement stack and the Revised Statement stack respectively. There was also a loose note with the writing "Statement ... 95 Old ... 104 103 New ... blank also".

Six months later, on March 3, 2016, a neighbour emailed me that Stephen said that I have the “petition with over a 100 names on it regarding the occupancy of Mt. Edwards.” BC Housing’s applying for rezoning was mentioned as well as that the petition might be needed.

On Fri, Mar 3, 2017 at 6:04 PM, Dr. Steven Benson [REDACTED] wrote:

*Hello Chris*

*I have been corresponding with Stephen Hammond (he is away on vacation right now) and he said you have a petition with over a 100 names on it regarding the occupancy of Mt. Edwards. BC Housing is moving very quickly on this, and they will be planning applying for rezoning this month or early next. Cool Aid has been engaged to operate the site, with 38 people on each of the first two floors and a mixed population of low-income people on the top floor. The first two floors will be 50+, but the top floor will be all ages. They will not be IV drug users, but we have not received a profile of their needs. We don't know if they will all be drug addicts, or mentally drug addicts or a mix. We may have need of the petition, and we want to see if the wording is still applicable. Do you still have it? Are you interested in getting involved in this, or handing it over to someone else?*

*I would appreciate hearing your thoughts.*

*Thank you.*

*Marjory Benson*

[REDACTED]

Trusting what I had been given, I replied to that email with the numbers written on the sticky notes and attached the Original Statement and the Revised Statement.

A significant difference between the Original Statement and the Revised Statement is that in last line of the Original Statement, it explicitly states that the undersigned support “[a new operator] who does not provide housing to the homeless nor the previously homeless”. The Revised Statement does not have these words.

What I heard at the April 18, 2017 info session and the April 24, 2017 consultation concerned me, so I decided that it was time for a very close look at the signed Statements. In so doing, signatory information was moved from the Statements into two spreadsheets.

On May 13 and 14, 2017, someone else read while I entered names into a spreadsheet of people who signed the Original and Revised Statements that went around 12 months ago. Afterward, analysis was done. The following was discovered.

- The first discovery was that the counts written on the sticky notes that were in the package of Statements were different than my count. The notes that came with the Statements claimed 95 Original and 104 Revised. One Original Statement had a duplicate. After taking the duplicate out and recounting, my count was 94 and 103.

Then I went through the Statements to examine whether they were correctly grouped. I found that:

- 5 Original Statements were incorrectly grouped with the Revised Statements (4 of these were the last Original Statements to be signed). My new count became 99 Original and 98 Revised.
- Then I saw that one of these late Original Statements was altered without validation and that two Revised Statements were signed by Stephen and Jack after their property sale on May 31, 2016. My next count became 98 Original Statements and 96 Revised Statements.
- Then I saw that 2 Revised Statements had two signatures each.
- My final count became 98 Original Signatories and 98 Revised Signatories (on 98 Original Statements and 96 Revised Statements)

Then I analyzed who signed the statement and where they lived and whether they signed both statements. What I discovered was that:

- the Revised Statement was signed by only 19 of the Original Statement's 98 signatories.
- In a catchment area that caught all of the original signatories near Mount Edwards Court, roughly defined by Humboldt Road to Blanshard Street to View Street to the block on the other side of Cook Street, 81 signed the Original Statement and 56 signed the Revised Statement.
- If you consider the 800 block and 900 block of Burdett Avenue alone, 50 signed the Original Statement and 31 signed the Revised Statement.
- Interestingly of the above, 819 Burdett Avenue residents signed 2 Original Statements and 11 Revised Statements but strangely all 11 Revised Statements had a PDF Icon in the upper left corner titled "Cool Aid Le... pdf"
- If you consider the time to gather 94 signatures, only 6 days were spent gathering the first 94 Original Statements but a whopping 20 days were spent gathering the first 92 Revised Statements!
- In each Statement's first 4 days, 92 Original Statements were gathered but only a paltry 16 Revised Statements were gathered!

- And if you consider whether the signatories resided afar, the Revised Statement received more signatures from distant areas like Tillicum and Langford.

It would seem the current BC Housing proposal should be revisited since it seems to come directly from the Revised Statement, which did far worse locally than the Original Statement, which makes it very clear that locals do not support "housing [for] the homeless nor the previously homeless" at Mount Edwards Court.

Sincerely,

Christopher Schmidt



## Residents and Business Owner's Statement of Support Regarding the Future Use of Mt. Edwards

We, the undersigned, are frustrated by ongoing effort by the current service provider (Victoria Cool Aid Society) to obtain the appearance of consent, agreement, and dialogue with neighbours and business owners adjacent to and nearby Mt. Edwards, located at 1002 Vancouver Street.

### Background:

In February 2016, the public learned that renovations were being done to change Mt. Edwards into low-barrier housing. Low-barrier housing (or no restrictions housing) is defined as "housing where tenants are **not** expected to abstain from using alcohol or other drugs or from carrying on with street activities while living on-site."

The Mt. Edwards facility is currently zoned a senior care facility providing support to seniors. Mt. Edwards is located across from an elementary school; therefore, any changes should and need to consider the safety and security of the students. Safety, security and community well-being is paramount to community members and business owners.

### Given that:

- an elementary school is located across from the Mt. Edwards property,
- the Provincial Government allowed its land to be occupied on the court house lawn in the Autumn 2015,
- the Provincial Government unilaterally responded without consultation to establish a no-restrictions facility at Mt. Edwards for 38 individuals from the occupied property, with room for up to 100 more after renovations
- the Provincial Government contracted the Cool Aid Society until March 31, 2017 to manage the facility with no process for the selection of operator,
- the Cool Aid Society is in a conflict of interest leading and promoting meetings with the appearance that they are 'consulting' the community,
- the Cool Aid Society refuses to demonstrate to the community how it is a positive addition to the neighbourhood,
- our peaceful neighbourhood has been altered by the increased number of street people attracted to it by the occupied property and by the Mt. Edwards facility, subjecting community residents to an increased burden of liability and an increased cost for security, and
- crime and bylaw infractions increased significantly near Mount Edwards since Victoria Cool Aid started operating the temporary no-restrictions facility based on police reports.

### We, the undersigned, support:

- Using Mt. Edwards as housing that would reflect the neighbourhood and its proximity to an elementary school,
- Private sector housing or highly restricted housing with supports reflective of our neighbourhood such as a nursing home for elders or mixed residential use (rental & supportive housing), and
- A new operator who does not operate low-barrier/no restrictions housing and who does not provide housing to the homeless nor the previously homeless, to manage the facility and to build positive and respectful relationships with community residents.

|  |               |              |               |                       |                    |              |
|--|---------------|--------------|---------------|-----------------------|--------------------|--------------|
| Name                                     |               |              |               |                       |                    |              |
| Address                                  |               |              |               |                       |                    |              |
| Signature                                |               |              |               |                       |                    |              |
| Date                                     |               |              |               |                       |                    |              |
| Circle what best describes your interest | <i>Renter</i> | <i>Owner</i> | <i>Parent</i> | <i>Business owner</i> | <i>Parishioner</i> | <i>Other</i> |

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Please scan the signed document and forward to [MadAsHell@telus.net](mailto:MadAsHell@telus.net) OR email and we will find a way to pick it up. Remember, you can make a difference in your community.

## Lacey Maxwell

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**From:** Christopher Schmidt <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** May 22, 2017 8:57 AM  
**To:** Victoria Mayor and Council; Lisa Helps (Mayor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Pam Madoff (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Chris Coleman (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Margaret Lucas (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor)  
**Subject:** Re: The April 24, 2017 Consultation for Mount Edwards Court is Misrepresented by the FGCA's CALUC Letter  
**Categories:** Lucas in progress

Dear Mayor and Council,

To follow up on my last email, this email has the link that was missing. Please also add this email to your Mount Edwards File.

It is being sent to you since, at the April 24, 2017 consultation, a video-camera was set up in the front left corner of the gym pointed at the microphones and all "28" of the proposal supporters were sitting in its frame and, due to the video-camera's angle, anyone viewing footage of the show of hands would likely get the impression that a much larger proportion of attendees supported the proposal than only 28/168.

As far as the show of hands for opposition, **140 voted against the proposed rezoning. Here is a video that shows part of the opposition that the videocamera likely didn't record. Except for the few supporters, the entire gymnasium—including people standing along the entire back wall—raised its hands in opposition to the proposal: <https://youtu.be/dMuiejTeXts>**

Also, I went back to the audiorecording of the speakers and summarized them in a more detailed manner. Regarding the speakers who supported/opposed:

Of the 8 who supported:

- 1 was a nearby renter
- 4 were renters from further away
- 2 did not identify stake
- 1 from outside Fairfield.

Of the 28 who opposed:

- 3 nearby renters
- 9 nearby Fairfield owners
- 1 farther Fairfield owner
- 1 farther Fairfield owner who was also a parent
- 1 from farther Fairfield did not identify stake and was also a parent
- 5 from outside Fairfield who were parents/headmaster
- 5 who did not identify location were parents
- 3 did not identify location nor stake

It is worth repeating that the FGCA's own number for attendance is 150, so there was a huge discrepancy caused by the FGCA's under-estimate for opposition (80). The FGCA's claiming 50 abstentions (non-voters)

who “would have supported another option” is a wildly hypocritical maneuver since the CALUC Chair explicitly stated that it would “not... get into options” but rather only have a simple show of hands of whether attendees supported/opposed the proposal “as it stands”. There was no show of hands for abstentions (non-voters), and likely for the good reason that the vote of opposition was overwhelming.

Anyway, BC Housing has left the decision to rezone to the City of Victoria, which is a fine thing since it has the authority to override the City rezoning process. So, **between this email and my last email, you have now received a more accurate summary of the public response at the consultation; as well, you are now informed of problems with the front-angle video and misleading elements of the CALUC's report.**

Sincerely Yours,  
Christopher Schmidt

On Wed, May 17, 2017 at 10:22 PM, Christopher Schmidt [REDACTED] wrote:  
Dear Mayor and Council,

I have received the CALUC summary for the April 24, 2017 community consultation regarding the proposed rezoning for 1002 Vancouver Street. The report contained so many misrepresentations and inaccuracies, I felt it proper to address them.

Firstly, the “Mount Edwads [sic] Final Report” is written in such a poor manner, it brings to question the competency of the person who wrote it.

Secondly, at the April 24th, 2017 consultation, a video camera was angled in the direction of the microphones. It likely filmed Don McTavish of Cool Aid in the foreground, Steven Hammond, the three proposal supporters in front of Steven Hammond, and the all the rest of the proposal supporters who were clustered in the far-side-front-middle of the gymnasium. Around an hour and a half into the meeting, Steven Hammond asked for a pool to be taken and, as usual, claimed support. A show of hands was done.

The thing is that, due to the camera’s angle, anyone viewing footage of the vote would likely get a very misleading impression when only 28/168 supported it.

As far as the vote of opposition, here is a link to a video showing the opposition that the camera likely missed (it shows the total opposition on the near (left) side but it does not pan over to the rear half of the far side of the gymnasium to show the same opposition there):

Thirdly, “That Vote” wasn’t a vote. Using “vote” gives the impression of a count. Rather, it was an informal show of hands followed by a count of support and a (very low) estimate of opposition. Simply, the CALUC member could not have counted such a gymnasium full of crowded, overlapping hands.

In order to confront the “caveats that would modify the vote”, here is some information.

Regarding a caveat: the “fellow standing close by” who lives “in the neighbourhood” and does “work for cool [sic] Aid” was likely Don McTavish of Cool Aid since he was sitting in the front row near the Chair and camera. The Cool Aid employee who was identified raising his hand was John Sherrat of Oak Bay.

Regarding another caveat: In short, the “non-voting 50” is a flat-out lie. The FGCA’s own number for attendance is 150, to make up for the huge discrepancy between that and its underestimate for opposition the FGCA imagined 50 neutral attendees and stated that “they would have supported another option.” Claiming

50 abstentions (non-voters) is a wildly hypocritical maneuver since the CALUC Chair explicitly stated that it would “not... get into options” but rather only have a simple show of hands of whether attendees supported/opposed the proposal “as it stands”. No show of hands for abstentions was done, and likely for good reason, since had there been one, there would have been few or no hands.

Regarding another caveat: the FGCA suggests that the result be disregarded due to the presence of people from outside the neighbourhood, which is true hypocrisy since, after a local resident voiced concern about the raised hand of a man who is a proponent employee and Oak Bay resident, the FGCA refused the request “that only neighbours and nearby residents raise their hands.”

Regarding another caveat: the letter also reflects that “38 people spoke, 28 were opposed while 8 were in favour”, but adds the caveat that “if one was just to count the parents or just the neighbours who spoke that ratio would be different.” This is so sloppy. So I made notes from my audiorecording, and entered a summary into a spreadsheet.

If the speaker failed to provide rent/own and location information, I added it based on what I know of neighbours. 5 non-local Fairfield property owners either identified themselves or were known by me. All 8 local property owners were known. 2 parents who lived in Fairfield were assumed to be owners. If an unknown speaker simply identified as from “down the road” or Fairfield, it was concluded that they rented and that they were not from nearby. Most renters identified or were known. So to assist the CALUC’s inability to keep better records, this is my best conclusion of speakers who supported/opposed:

7 local renters, mostly oppose (4), especially the long-time residents.  
4 renters from further in Fairfield: all support.  
12 parents: all oppose, 6 want covenants, 5 identified as residing outside Fairfield.  
2 local businesses: ALL OPPOSE.  
8 local Fairfield property owners: ALL OPPOSE.  
7 distant Fairfield property owners: ALL OPPOSE.

Fourthly, at the meeting, the CALUC spoke a summary that was very different from the letter. Yet the letter ends with a paragraph whose placement and structure gives the reader the impression that the content of the letter was approved by a multitude. As if to validate its absurdities, the paragraph dedicates itself to one person’s co-operative opening remark “You probably got it right”, a remark which was followed by a request for information. It was a single remark inflated into a narrative where “the people still at the meeting” were asked to advise if the CALUC “got it right” and the FGCA was told that “essentially [it] did” (get it right) with a few innocent flaws “but essentially right”. The paragraph says nothing about the next speaker who extensively criticized the FGCA for reporting more points in favour of the proposal than against the proposal at a meeting where there was a decisive show of hands, a criticism that was followed by the CALUC Chair promising “We will put in the report ‘overwhelming opposition’. OK?” And it says nothing about five more speakers who followed to voice opposition to the proposal and another speaker who testified that the FGCA and its CALUC are unfit to hold a public consultation on this issue.

In sum, the FGCA CALUC Chair broke his promise that he would report “overwhelming opposition” and instead wrote “So yes the vote appears on first blush to support denying the application but there are many caveats as mentioned above which may modify the vote”. That statement, the self-created caveats, and the creation of an imaginary 50 who “would have supported another option” seems designed to give the City leeway to ignore the overwhelming opposition.

If that is the FGCA’s way of not taking a side or position on an application, that is one hell of a way of not taking a side or position.

My observation is that the City of Victoria's objective according to the Mayor's Task Force for Housing Affordability is to increase housing for the poor. The City of Victoria knows that Fairfield neighbours have demanded that the FGCA not participate in CALUC. Yet the City has requested that the FGCA continue its role operating CALUC. By putting the operation of CALUC with an organization that claims neutrality yet misrepresents public input, the City of Victoria gets the optics of public consultation.

Sincerely,  
Christopher Schmidt

## Lucas De Amaral

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**From:** Mary James [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 07, 2017 4:57 PM  
**To:** Victoria Mayor and Council  
**Cc:** Carol.James.mla@leg.bc.ca  
**Subject:** Fort street and Mt. Edwards

Hello,

I'm a retired person and I own a condo at 1015 Rockland Ave. I have deep concerns about the decisions Victoria is making regarding housing at Mt. Edwards and also the proposed bike lane on Fort.

First, the housing at Mt. Edwards should be for senior care and should be illegal-drug-free. The taxpayers who live here should have a right to a safe community. I was born in Victoria and when I was very young there were lots of homeless people. In fact that's when Cool-Aid was created. Victoria has done a lot to support the homeless, however now it is time to provide more housing for seniors. I personally know how difficult it is to find a home for an ailing senior family member. Mount Edwards used to be a care home for seniors and I would like to see it return to that role and not as a rehab halfway house.

It is the provincial government's job to provide more support for our homeless and for our working poor community members. Much of that support should be focussed on health care, particularly mental health care and rehab.

The proposed bike lane on Fort is unnecessary. There is already a bike lane there. The bike lane that has been put in on Pandora has created traffic confusion. A much less expensive way to provide more safety for the bikers is to put flexible plastic rods between the traffic and the bike lane as they do in the city of Montreal. The flexible plastic rods are implanted into the asphalt and provide a visual waist high barrier between the bikes and the cars. The bike lane that is protected by the flexible plastic rods can be crossed by vehicles to park on the curb (the rods bend as the car drives over them and then spring back up), but the rods are a visual reminder to drivers that they must take care when crossing the bike lane. Thank you all for your hard work. Please take into account my thoughts on both Mt. Edwards for seniors without drug addiction, and a less expensive, less intrusive solution to the bike lane on Fort. Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Mary James  
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

Sent from my iPhone

Debra Hellbach  
2517 Garden Street  
Victoria, BC, V8T 3G4  
July 4, 2017

Mayor Helps and City Councillors  
Via email: [mayor@victoria.ca](mailto:mayor@victoria.ca)

**Rezoning Application: Mount Edwards Court**

Dear Mayor Helps and City Councillors:

As a longtime resident, conscientious voter and parent of a student at Christ Church Cathedral School I am concerned about plans for Mount Edward Court.

That the building is currently being used for “the homeless and hard to house” is a concern on its own. The plan to double the population from 38 to 79 residences is a major concern. This doubling goes against CMHC’s best practices and such densities have already proven disastrous at Cool Aid’s 844 Johnson St. facility. (CMHC Research papers:

[http://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection\\_2011/schl-cmhc/nh18-1-2/NH18-1-2-184-2007-eng.pdf](http://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection_2011/schl-cmhc/nh18-1-2/NH18-1-2-184-2007-eng.pdf) and  
<https://www03.cmhcschl.gc.ca/catalog/productDetail.cfm?cat=32&itm=35&lang=en&sid=oRRgmdekEXkxgNzTsi8V6mmxbryQjRjSkHNg40Vbv50KJlmfaWBftXJtbQriotsu&fr=1496099941207>)

I hope that you and the city councillors take into account that Mount Edward Court is situated next to a school, that it will be difficult (and costly) to enforce all the requirements to keep children safe and that a mutually beneficial solution is to use the property for affordable housing for seniors, families or single parents.

Sincerely,



Debra Hellbach

**Lauren Martin**

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**From:** France Cormier [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, July 07, 2017 5:53 PM  
**To:** planandzone@fairfieldcommunity.ca; Community Planning email inquiries;  
Development Services email inquiries; Victoria Mayor and Council  
**Subject:** Mt Edwards court rezoning

To whom it may concern:

I am writing once again to raise concerns about the Mt Edwards Cool Aid project on Vancouver street in Fairfield.

The project is ill advised and will put the safety of the neighbours, and school children at risk, to no one's benefit. Helping the chronically hard to house is one thing, but to do it at the expense of the rest of the population is a big mistake and a liability for the city. Here are 7 reasons (amongst others) why the project is a very bad idea. I would really appreciate you giving them some consideration in your upcoming decision regarding the future use of Mt Edwards.

1) **Low barrier housing** is a terrible way to deal with the chronic homeless/hard to house. It results in entrenching them in their existing problematic behavioural patterns and very seldom translates into someone moving on to re-join society. A project as big as Mt Edwards is even worse. It ghettoizes the population within the building, ensuring even fewer will ever re-enter society. Cool-Aid's own selected study about low barrier housing, and posted on their website last year stated that any more than 30 people in one building caused more crime and impact to those inside and outside the building.

2) The **neighbourhood**: School, playgrounds, park and day care centers are in close proximity of Mt Edwards. These do not mix with low barrier housing. We won't let pot shops, liquor stores or bars open there, not even ice cream merchants on bicycles! Used needles are still showing up everywhere. As vigilant as parents, neighbours and the school are, there is bound to be accidents. And that's to say nothing of the witnessed violence, drug dealing, prostitution, drug consumption and other risks such as harbouring pedophiles, which Cool-Aid has admitted several times they could not check for. While Cool-Aid may claim to "know" their local clients, Victoria's chronic hard to house population often migrates from out of town, even out of province. Cool-Aid would have no idea who they are housing and what danger they pose to the neighbours and children. In many cases of homeless living in supportive housing that went on to murder innocent people (Abbotsford comes to mind), the agencies had seen no signs of danger. Is this a risk worth taking? Removing them AFTER they misbehave, as Cool-Aid suggested, will not undo any harm they bring to school children or residents of the neighbourhood, nor will it bring any sense of security to the neighbours and parents.

In addition, one must also consider that there is a tipping point for any community: we already have a large amount of supportive housing in the vicinity, albeit not SROs. Adding more will bring the community to a tipping point when the neighborhood can no longer sustain the amount of risk and may suffer irreversible damage.

3) The **CALUC** input was overwhelmingly against the project – The summary by FGCA failed to capture the extent of the opposition. Most people came, spoke (against the project) and left. In its summary, the FGCA mistakenly assumed that the total number of people who signed in at the CALUC meeting, minus the pros and cons votes, abstained from voting. Having been present the whole time, I can attest that many neighbours



spoke their minds – objected to the continuation of this use for Mt Edwards - and left (the vote was taken more than 2 hours after the start of the meeting).

In addition, the CALUC report gives as much weight to anonymous single voices as to almost 40 people who spoke up, and another large number who voted against the proposal. This is wrong. The FGCA's role is not to try to present a balanced view of each side but rather to report on the overall sentiments expressed at the meeting. They failed to do so. Those sentiments were overwhelmingly in opposition of the project. Furthermore, the FGCA, in its report, often cast doubt on statements against the project yet never question anything from the very few that were supportive, indicating a clear lack of impartiality.

At CALUC, Cool-Aid still could not answer properly some very basic questions (after being called out for lying) such as: will the CASH process be used for Mt Edwards. At CALUC Ms. Simpson said yes, when told that the CASH is incompatible with the population they claim will live at Mt Edwards she then said that she didn't know and that they were going to have to decide how to select people. Obviously, they have full intentions of continuing to house hard to house individuals, with minimal or no supports.

Finally, Cool-Aid is pulling a "bait-and-switch" by asking to be judged on the past 15 months (which is far from being great, but much better than what they plan on doing at Mt Edwards). Let's keep in mind that the number of residents will more than double, that the staff will be reduced, the outside security removed, etc. if Cool-Aid gets its way.

#### 4) **Mt Edwards**, the building:

The building itself is not fitted for low needs people. An SRO always deals with the neediest and most problematic people. Anyone who would "magically transform" would not stay in a SRO that does not even have private showers, thus creating a revolving door of people and increased risk to the neighborhood. The building is filled with asbestos . Cool-Aid wants to do the removal work while the building is being lived-in. This is not safe.

The building is not seismically sound. Cool-Aid will not correct this.

The presence of "Mt Edwards light" is already bringing crime to the neighborhood.

It already has an effect on Pioneer park, where I constantly see people from Mt Edwards sit on the benches on Rockland, drinking alcohol, and relieving themselves, in broad day light, against the church walls. I've seen drug deals and people passed out in the park too.

5) **Powerful drugs**: current street drugs (fentanyl, carfentanyl, and others) are so lethal that even invisible trace elements can kill a grown adult. Emergency personal wear rubber gloves so as not to be exposed to any such substances. What are the neighbours, including children and pets to do? We have already seen 2 cases of dogs who almost died of overdose from unknowingly ingesting fentanyl while outside for a walk. These powerful drugs are now used in everything, not just injectable heroin, and pose a real danger to all exposed to them.

6) Last year, **Cool-Aid** was telling my neighbours and I about how great Mt Edwards would be once the tent city folk were housed there. There would be no problems as the chronically hard to house folks would "magically transform" (their words). When we pointed to the impacts this experiment would have on our neighbourhood, they mocked us. Well, almost one year after the Central Care Home facility was opened for exactly this purpose, we have been proven right on every prediction. What we had foreseen would happen is exactly what happened – not surprising since it was based on evidence: we had done our research! This demonstrates that Cool-Aid are, at best incompetent, at worst dishonest about their ability to deal with a large number of people who are chronically homeless/hard to house due to their anti-social and erratic violent behaviour in a single building.

There is no trust. Cool-Aid has proven over and over again how they cannot be trusted, and how little they care about the neighbourhood and the school. They have demonstrated that they will stop at nothing to get their way, and as such, I and many others, have zero trust in them.

7) One more **Central Care Home**:

This was going to be Mt Edwards. This is likely what Mt Edwards would become under Cool-Aid's project. Here are some known facts about Central Care Home in the past year:

- \* A central care home resident killed a random innocent by-stander
- \* A central care home resident used a pellet gun to shoot at moving cars on Johnson street.
- \* Drug dealers live and operate inside the facility
- \* There is a protection racket inside the facility
- \* There have been several assaults with weapons
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- \* Increased crime and criminal activity in the surrounding area.
- \* VicPD had to establish a police beat. Many businesses had to put up protective fencing.
- \* Many neighbours are living in fear, those who could sold and moved away.

Those are the stories that I know of, as an outsider. I'm sure there are many more that were never published.

But Cool-Aid is different from PHS, right? No! One need only read the Burnside-Gorge residents' statement in an open letter to the mayor published in the Times-Colonist recently: Cool-Aid is no better than PHS at dealing with the issues their clients bring onto the neighborhoods they operate in. Businesses around Cool-Aid facilities are suffering quietly for fear of public shaming.

For the first time in my life, I have felt unsafe walking alone in my neighbourhood since Mt Edwards started operating as supportive housing. There have been several occasions where I feared for my safety and crossed the sidewalk or just held my breath, looked down and walked by, hoping nothing would happen to me. This had NEVER happened to me in my neighborhood in my 9+ years of living there, or anywhere else for that matter, including large cities. I hope you will see like me that such an arrangement is not a viable solution for anyone.

Thank you ,

France Cormier.

[REDACTED]

## Lucas De Amaral

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**From:** France Cormier [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, July 07, 2017 5:53 PM  
**To:** planandzone@fairfieldcommunity.ca; Community Planning email inquiries; Development Services email inquiries; Victoria Mayor and Council  
**Subject:** Mt Edwards court rezoning  
**Categories:** Lucas in progress

To whom it may concern:

I am writing once again to raise concerns about the Mt Edwards Cool Aid project on Vancouver street in Fairfield.

The project is ill advised and will put the safety of the neighbours, and school children at risk, to no one's benefit. Helping the chronically hard to house is one thing, but to do it at the expense of the rest of the population is a big mistake and a liability for the city. Here are 7 reasons (amongst others) why the project is a very bad idea. I would really appreciate you giving them some consideration in your upcoming decision regarding the future use of Mt Edwards.

1) **Low barrier housing** is a terrible way to deal with the chronic homeless/hard to house. It results in entrenching them in their existing problematic behavioural patterns and very seldom translates into someone moving on to re-join society. A project as big as Mt Edwards is even worse. It ghettoizes the population within the building, ensuring even fewer will ever re-enter society. Cool-Aid's own selected study about low barrier housing, and posted on their website last year stated that any more than 30 people in one building caused more crime and impact to those inside and outside the building.

2) The **neighbourhood**: School, playgrounds, park and day care centers are in close proximity of Mt Edwards. These do not mix with low barrier housing. We won't let pot shops, liquor stores or bars open there, not even ice cream merchants on bicycles! Used needles are still showing up everywhere. As vigilant as parents, neighbours and the school are, there is bound to be accidents. And that's to say nothing of the witnessed violence, drug dealing, prostitution, drug consumption and other risks such as harbouring pedophiles, which Cool-Aid has admitted several times they could not check for. While Cool-Aid may claim to "know" their local clients, Victoria's chronic hard to house population often migrates from out of town, even out of province. Cool-Aid would have no idea who they are housing and what danger they pose to the neighbours and children. In many cases of homeless living in supportive housing that went on to murder innocent people (Abbotsford comes to mind), the agencies had seen no signs of danger. Is this a risk worth taking? Removing them AFTER they misbehave, as Cool-Aid suggested, will not undo any harm they bring to school children or residents of the neighbourhood, nor will it bring any sense of security to the neighbours and parents.

In addition, one must also consider that there is a tipping point for any community: we already have a large amount of supportive housing in the vicinity, albeit not SROs. Adding more will bring the community to a tipping point when the neighborhood can no longer sustain the amount of risk and may suffer irreversible damage.

3) The **CALUC** input was overwhelmingly against the project – The summary by FGCA failed to capture the

extent of the opposition. Most people came, spoke (against the project) and left. In its summary, the FGCA mistakenly assumed that the total number of people who signed in at the CALUC meeting, minus the pros and cons votes, abstained from voting. Having been present the whole time, I can attest that many neighbours spoke their minds – objected to the continuation of this use for Mt Edwards - and left (the vote was taken more than 2 hours after the start of the meeting).

In addition, the CALUC report gives as much weight to anonymous single voices as to almost 40 people who spoke up, and another large number who voted against the proposal. This is wrong. The FGCA's role is not to try to present a balanced view of each side but rather to report on the overall sentiments expressed at the meeting. They failed to do so. Those sentiments were overwhelmingly in opposition of the project. Furthermore, the FGCA, in its report, often cast doubt on statements against the project yet never question anything from the very few that were supportive, indicating a clear lack of impartiality.

At CALUC, Cool-Aid still could not answer properly some very basic questions (after being called out for lying) such as: will the CASH process be used for Mt Edwards. At CALUC Ms. Simpson said yes, when told that the CASH is incompatible with the population they claim will live at Mt Edwards she then said that she didn't know and that they were going to have to decide how to select people. Obviously, they have full intentions of continuing to house hard to house individuals, with minimal or no supports.

Finally, Cool-Aid is pulling a "bait-and-switch" by asking to be judged on the past 15 months (which is far from being great, but much better than what they plan on doing at Mt Edwards). Let's keep in mind that the number of residents will more than double, that the staff will be reduced, the outside security removed, etc. if Cool-Aid gets its way.

#### 4) **Mt Edwards**, the building:

The building itself is not fitted for low needs people. An SRO always deals with the neediest and most problematic people. Anyone who would "magically transform" would not stay in a SRO that does not even have private showers, thus creating a revolving door of people and increased risk to the neighborhood. The building is filled with asbestos . Cool-Aid wants to do the removal work while the building is being lived-in. This is not safe.

The building is not seismically sound. Cool-Aid will not correct this.

The presence of "Mt Edwards light" is already bringing crime to the neighborhood.

It already has an effect on Pioneer park, where I constantly see people from Mt Edwards sit on the benches on Rockland, drinking alcohol, and relieving themselves, in broad day light, against the church walls. I've seen drug deals and people passed out in the park too.

5) **Powerful drugs**: current street drugs (fentanyl, carfentanyl, and others) are so lethal that even invisible trace elements can kill a grown adult. Emergency personal wear rubber gloves so as not to be exposed to any such substances. What are the neighbours, including children and pets to do? We have already seen 2 cases of dogs who almost died of overdose from unknowingly ingesting fentanyl while outside for a walk. These powerful drugs are now used in everything, not just injectable heroin, and pose a real danger to all exposed to them.

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exactly what happened – not surprising since it was based on evidence: we had done our research! This demonstrates that Cool-Aid are, at best incompetent, at worst dishonest about their ability to deal with a large number of people who are chronically homeless/hard to house due to their anti-social and erratic violent behaviour in a single building.

There is no trust. Cool-Aid has proven over and over again how they cannot be trusted, and how little they care about the neighbourhood and the school. They have demonstrated that they will stop at nothing to get their way, and as such, I and many others, have zero trust in them.

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- \* There have been several assaults with weapons
- \* There have been several assaults of police officers
- \* People inside do not want to live there – complain about lack of private showers and kitchens.
- \* Increased crime and criminal activity in the surrounding area.
- \* VicPD had to establish a police beat. Many businesses had to put up protective fencing.
- \* Many neighbours are living in fear, those who could sold and moved away.

Those are the stories that I know of, as an outsider. I'm sure there are many more that were never published.

But Cool-Aid is different from PHS, right? No! One need only read the Burnside-Gorge residents' statement in an open letter to the mayor published in the Times-Colonist recently: Cool-Aid is no better than PHS at dealing with the issues their clients bring onto the neighborhoods they operate in. Businesses around Cool-Aid facilities are suffering quietly for fear of public shaming.

For the first time in my life, I have felt unsafe walking alone in my neighbourhood since Mt Edwards started operating as supportive housing. There have been several occasions where I feared for my safety and crossed the sidewalk or just held my breath, looked down and walked by, hoping nothing would happen to me. This had NEVER happened to me in my neighborhood in my 9+ years of living there, or anywhere else for that matter, including large cities. I hope you will see like me that such an arrangement is not a viable solution for anyone.

Thank you.,

France Cormier.

**Lucas De Amaral**

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**From:** William Johnston [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, July 10, 2017 12:06 PM  
**To:** Lisa Helps (Mayor)  
**Cc:** Chris Coleman (Councillor)  
**Subject:** Mt Edwards Court

I would like to draw your attention to a hitherto unexamined aspect of the Mt Edwards Court debate. According to Cool Aid a Vulnerability Assessment Tool will be used to ensure that potential residents will have a profile that indicates Low to Moderate support needs.

I guess using the term moderate in reference to a total score on the VAT is designed to reassure residents of the neighbourhood that they have little to fear from the addition of 65 more residents to the Mt Edwards Court residence. However, a closer look indicates that a moderate score is possible given the following behaviours:

BASIC NEEDS - "Occasional attention to hygiene" SURVIVAL SKILLS -  
"Is frequently in dangerous situations" MORTALITY RISKS - 3 Risk Factors ie.  
heart, diabetes, etc. ORGANIZATION - "Sometimes  
disorganized" MENTAL HEALTH - "May be taking proscribed  
medications" SUBSTANCE USE - "Ninety to 180 days into addiction recovery ....  
Or Substance use affecting ability to follow through on basic needs .... Could be a  
binge user" SOCIAL BEHAVIOURS - ... Difficulty  
coping with stress; sometimes has angry outbursts"

**So many residents of Mt Edwards will have the characteristic of frequently being in dangerous situations, being binge users of narcotics, subject to bouts of angry outbursts and often not taking their proscribed medications. Can anyone say that It is socially responsible to place this facility next to an elementary school. Please take action to ensure that this threat to a community never eventuates.**

Sincerely,

waj

William Johnston  
309-999 Burdett Avenue,  
Victoria, B.C. V8V 3G7

## Residents and Business Owner's Statement of Support Regarding the Future Use of Mt. Edwards

We, the undersigned, are frustrated by ongoing effort by the current service provider (Victoria Cool Aid Society) to obtain the appearance of consent, agreement, and dialogue with neighbours and business owners adjacent to and nearby Mt. Edwards, located at 1002 Vancouver Street.

### Background:

In February 2016, the public learned that renovations were being done to change Mt. Edwards into low-barrier housing. Low-barrier housing (or no restrictions housing) is defined as "housing where tenants are **not** expected to abstain from using alcohol or other drugs or from carrying on with street activities while living on-site."

The Mt. Edwards facility is currently zoned a senior care facility providing support to seniors. Mt. Edwards is located across from an elementary school; therefore, any changes should and need to consider the safety and security of the students. Safety, security and community well-being is paramount to community members and business owners.

### Given that:

- an elementary school is located across from the Mt. Edwards property,
- the Provincial Government allowed its land to be occupied on the court house lawn in the Autumn 2015,
- the Provincial Government unilaterally responded without consultation to establish a no-restrictions facility at Mt. Edwards for 38 individuals from the occupied property, with room for up to 100 more after renovations
- the Provincial Government contracted the Cool Aid Society until March 31, 2017 to manage the facility with no process for the selection of operator,
- the Cool Aid Society is in a conflict of interest leading and promoting meetings with the appearance that they are 'consulting' the community,
- the Cool Aid Society refuses to demonstrate to the community how it is a positive addition to the neighbourhood,
- our peaceful neighbourhood has been altered by the increased number of street people attracted to it by the occupied property and by the Mt. Edwards facility, subjecting community residents to an increased burden of liability and an increased cost for security, and
- crime and bylaw infractions increased significantly near Mount Edwards since Victoria Cool Aid started operating the temporary no-restrictions facility based on police reports.

### We, the undersigned, support:

- Using Mt. Edwards as housing that would reflect the neighbourhood and its proximity to an elementary school,
- Private sector housing or highly restricted housing with supports reflective of our neighbourhood such as a nursing home for elders or mixed residential use (rental & supportive housing), and
- A new operator who does not operate low-barrier/no restrictions housing and who does not provide housing to the homeless nor the previously homeless, to manage the facility and to build positive and respectful relationships with community residents.

|  |               |              |               |                       |                    |              |
|--|---------------|--------------|---------------|-----------------------|--------------------|--------------|
| Name                                     |               |              |               |                       |                    |              |
| Address                                  |               |              |               |                       |                    |              |
| Signature                                |               |              |               |                       |                    |              |
| Date                                     |               |              |               |                       |                    |              |
| Circle what best describes your interest | <i>Renter</i> | <i>Owner</i> | <i>Parent</i> | <i>Business owner</i> | <i>Parishioner</i> | <i>Other</i> |

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Please scan the signed document and forward to [MadAsHell@telus.net](mailto:MadAsHell@telus.net) OR email and we will find a way to pick it up. Remember, you can make a difference in your community.



## REVISED Residents and Business Owner's Statement of Support Regarding the Future Use of Mt. Edwards

We, the undersigned, are frustrated by ongoing effort of Victoria Cool Aid Society to obtain the appearance of consent, agreement, and dialogue with neighbours and business owners near Mt. Edwards, at 1002 Vancouver Street.

### Background:

In February 2016, the public learned that renovations were being done to change Mt. Edwards into low-barrier housing. Low-barrier housing (or no restrictions housing) is defined as "housing where tenants are not expected to abstain from using alcohol or other drugs or from carrying on with street activities while living on-site."

The Mt. Edwards facility is currently zoned R-K zone, which allows hospitals and nursing homes. Mt. Edwards is located across from an elementary school; therefore, any changes should and need to consider the safety and security of the students. Safety, security and community well-being is paramount to community members and business owners.

### Given that:

- Mt. Edwards is located in a residential neighbourhood and across the street from an elementary school,
- the Provincial Government allowed its land to be occupied on the court house lawn in the Autumn 2015,
- the Provincial Government unilaterally responded without consultation to establish a no-restrictions facility at Mt. Edwards for 38 individuals from the occupied property, with room for up to 100 or more after renovations,
- Victoria Police reveal that neighbourhood calls for service in and around the occupied land has increased by 46% since "tent city" has been established (including violence, open drug use, break-ins, thefts, public disorder, etc.)
- Victoria's Police Chief received unanimous support from City Council to fund extra policing due to the "criminal element", "gang members" "threats", "intimidation" & "drug trafficking" in and around the occupied land,
- moving "tent city" indoors, to Mt. Edwards on a permanent basis will entrench the same problems,
- our peaceful neighbourhood has been altered by these increased number of people attracted to it by the occupied property and by the Mt. Edwards facility, subjecting community residents to an increased burden of liability and an increased cost for security,
- the Provincial Government contracted the Cool Aid Society until March 31, 2017 to manage the facility with no process for the selection of operator,
- the Cool Aid Society is in a conflict of interest leading community meetings, and
- the Cool Aid Society refuses to demonstrate to the community how it is a positive addition to the neighbourhood.

### We, the undersigned, support:

- True consultation with the neighbourhood and adherence to neighbourhood input to use Mt. Edwards for housing that would reflect the residential neighbourhood and its proximity to an elementary school,
- Housing with supports reflective of our neighbourhood such as a nursing home for elders or mixed residential use (rental & nursing but NOT low-barrier housing), and
- A new operator who has the trust and support of the neighbourhood, to manage the facility and to build positive and respectful relationships with community residents.

|  |               |              |               |                       |                    |              |
|--|---------------|--------------|---------------|-----------------------|--------------------|--------------|
| Name                                     |               |              |               |                       |                    |              |
| Address                                  |               |              |               |                       |                    |              |
| Signature                                |               |              |               |                       |                    |              |
| Date                                     |               |              |               |                       |                    |              |
| Circle what best describes your interest | <i>Renter</i> | <i>Owner</i> | <i>Parent</i> | <i>Business owner</i> | <i>Parishioner</i> | <i>Other</i> |
| Optional Phone # & email                 |               |              |               |                       |                    |              |

Please scan the signed document and forward to [MadAsHell@telus.net](mailto:MadAsHell@telus.net) OR email and we will find a way to pick it up. Remember, you can make a difference in your community.

May 25, 2016

**REVISED Residents and Business Owner's Statement of Support  
Regarding the Future Use of Mt. Edwards**

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May 25, 2016

**Amendments for Mount Edwards Court Neighbourhood Meeting Draft Minutes  
for March 22, 2016**

Hello Ms. Stinson,

April 4, 2016

This proposed amendment is to bring to the table some items and detail that were missing from your Mount Edwards Court Neighbourhood Meeting Draft Minutes for March 22, 2016. Please append it or incorporate its changes and additions into your draft minutes document for that meeting.

As requested, these changes are substantive; in other words, changes are proposed only where necessary in order to capture better the original meaning of the dialogue.

As well, in an attempt to minimize additions, only a few items have been added.

It would be nice if my amendments were formatted in the same manner as your portion of the minutes or at least in the manner in which I have submitted it: specifically, please do not use the question-mark bullets.

If you disagree with any specific items that I have proposed, please let me know this afternoon or by end-of-day today, so that I can reply early tomorrow before I start work. It is good to see the new effort that Cool Aid is putting into capturing the main items of the meeting and it is my hope that, if things continue in this manner, my part in this become unnecessary.

Sincerely Yours,  
Christopher Schmidt

\*\*\*\*\*

*Beginning of Amendment Document*

**Under Good Neighbour Agreement:**

What Cool Aid wrote:

A StandUp Fairfield members polled the room to determine that 15 out 27 present do not want to be Mount Edwards neighbours. They see no differentiation between Mount Edwards and Tent City. They see no use for a Good Neighbour Agreement.

Please change it to:

A Speak Up Fairfield member stated that any agreement to be neighbours with Cool Aid is an implicit consent to Cool Aid's operation at Mount Edwards Court. He polled the room to determine how many neighbours supported this position: 15/27 of attending neighbours supported it.

DENIED

accepted  
correction

①

After the above, please insert the item:

Cool Aid stated that it could reference in the Good Neighbour Agreement that there are neighbours in Fairfield who do not endorse it.

ACCEPTED

And after that, please insert the item:

- 1a Cool Aid recognized that Speak Up Fairfield would rather Cool Aid not be in the neighbourhood and that Speak Up Fairfield does not want to sign the Good Neighbour Agreement, but Cool Aid dismissed Speak Up Fairfield's position on the basis that it did not come from everybody; however, it did welcome Speak Up Fairfield to continue attending and making that point.

DENIED

After the item "Mount Edwards residents will be included in the process", please insert the item:

- 2 Speak Up Fairfield elaborated that another objective of its not consenting to the Good Neighbour Agreement is to ensure that these meetings continue so that there is a forum for all neighbours to attend to address their concerns about the operations at Mount Edwards Court. Cool Aid responded that it is good that we are on the same page.

ACCEPTED

DENIED

The next alteration to what you wrote is the comment that I made but that you documented incorrectly. It is the fourth bulleted item after the detailed number items under **Action Items from the previous meeting**. It was my recounting the man in front of my house.

What you wrote:

Chris S recounted an incident from Sunday – a man in the neighbourhood had seemed to be following him and had stopped outside his house; was staring and appeared to be angry; Chris took pictures, called police and called Mount Edwards; the man was not a resident of Mount Edwards; Chris watched him 40 minutes later walk up Cook Street to Meares and enter a parkade.

Please change it to:

- 3 Chris S recounted an incident from Sunday – a man passed him as he walked on the sidewalk in front of his house then the man stopped to stare angrily at Chris as he entered his home. He continued to stand facing Chris' house until Chris returned outside to ask him if he could help him—the man responded with a nonsense accusation. Chris took pictures, called the police, and called Mount Edwards. Cool Aid denied the man's being a resident of Mount Edwards. While out for a walk later, Chris and his wife saw the same man entering a parkade near Meares and Vancouver.

ACCEPTED

DENIED —  
KS used "advised that the man was not a"

You wrote:

- 4 Someone asked the question 'has there been a dramatic rise in problems since Mount Edwards opened – response of many neighbours was yes; the term 'instant ghetto' was used.

Please change it to:

A resident of Mount Edwards asked whether there has been a rise in problems since Mount Edwards started. The response of many neighbours was yes. One neighbour commented that "on February 23<sup>rd</sup>, the neighbourhood turned into the vibe of a ghetto. Instantly."

DENIED

After the above, please add the item:

- 5 A neighbour commented that new faces are scouting backyards and properties and that people have been in his yard but they have not stolen but he noted that there is nothing left in his yard to steal. He noted that many of his neighbours on Meares have had their yards broken into since the opening of Mount Edwards.

DENIED

Under the heading **ACTION**: Cool Aid will continue to follow-up with BC Housing regarding security; Cool Aid will continue to tighten up the Community Liaison presence.

Please change item 4.

What you wrote:

4. StandUp Fairfield neighbours to provide a transcript of the meeting to be included with minutes:

- No transcript will be provided.

Please change it to:

4. There was an offer by a Speak Up Fairfield member to provide a transcript of the meeting to be included with minutes: *accepted correction*

- Despite this offer, a majority of Speak Up Fairfield voted against sharing the transcript so no transcript will be provided.

DENIED

Under Updates:

Under VicPD:

What you wrote:

- Teri is familiar with the neighbourhood and its issues.

Please change it to:

- Teri is familiar with some of the issues of the area.

DENIED

And for the sixth item after the VicPD items:

What you wrote:

Neighbours reported that there was increased garbage including sharps and increased graffiti everywhere.

Please change it to:

Neighbours reported that there was increased garbage including sharps and increased graffiti everywhere. A neighbour reported junk being left in backyard and her garbage can being filled.

DENIED

And two items below that, where you have a summary of the letter that I read:

What you wrote:

Chris S. read from a letter provided by a nearby apartment building manager (1.5 blocks from Mount Edwards) noting extreme concern with increased traffic and a near fatal overdose; 2 tenants are considering moving; their historically quiet residential neighbourhood has been irrevocably changed.

Please change it to:

Chris S. read from a letter provided by a nearby apartment building owner who owns the apartment rented to the person who made the February 29, 2016 claim that crime has not changed. The building is 1.5 blocks from Mount Edwards and the owner noted extreme concern about increased homeless and drug-addicted traffic and a near-fatal overdose in his parking lot. He reported that residents are becoming increasingly concerned and frightened and that 2 tenants are considering moving due to the problems and the planned increase in housing for those in our neighbourhood, and that this historically quiet residential neighbourhood has been irrevocably changed.

ACCEPTED

And under Neighbours:

The first item:

What you wrote:

A neighbour new to these meetings expressed that all want what is best for the neighbourhood; all want solutions for the homeless. That said they are interested in the process for a year from now—regarding

the current situation—who cares. They want leadership and discussion on the bigger issues; they are ticked off and frustrated.

Please change it to:

10 A neighbour new to these meetings expressed that all want what is best for the neighbourhood and that all agree that there has to be some sort of solution for the homeless. He disagrees with the process and the future of Mount Edwards. He is less concerned about the present situation than he is about the process for what happens in a year from now since the future proposal is far different. He wants leadership and discussion on what a year from now will look like. Neighbours are concerned that Mount Edwards is no-holds-barred access to the neighbourhood and we are frustrated because it was put into our community by people who claim to want what is best for us but who go back to their homes in their neighbourhoods that don't have the same newly-created problems that we now experience.

DENIED

For the second item:

What you wrote:

Kathy Stinson (...)

Please change it to:

Don McTavish (...)

For the third item:

What you wrote:

Cool Aid and BC Housing are committed to consulting with the community (school, church, neighbours) on what the long term of vision for Mount Edwards will be; and to take what they learn from the process forward into a public rezoning process. We had advised that this long term process will not likely begin before May as we want to let the current operation settle in; and would prefer that the Tent City be resolved first. If Tent City carries on, we may have to revisit that. These meetings will not be the forum for that long term process.

Please change it to:

11 Cool Aid is committed to a process of consulting with the community in advance of the rezoning, and that this consultation will probably not start until May since it has hoped that Tent City will be resolved firstly. If Tent City carries on, Cool Aid may have to reconsider when to start the process. Cool Aid's intent is to determine what the long-term vision for Mount Edwards will be and to take what it learns from that process forward into a public rezoning process. At previous meetings, Cool Aid has provided the above information and stated that the liaison meetings will not be the forum for that long-term process.

DENIED

For the fourth item:

You wrote:

Chris S. acknowledged that this has been a consistent message from Cool Aid.

Please change it to:

12 Chris S. acknowledged that Cool Aid, BC Housing, and the City have spoken extensively that a rezoning process would take place.

ACCEPTED

End of Amendments

Transcript of the 2016.03.22 12:00 to 1:20 PM Cool Aid Neighbourhood Liaison Meeting held at Christ Church Cathedral

In the following text, text is exactly as spoken but some sections are missing. They are marked with an ellipsis .... Noteworthy sections are highlighted and commentary is added in red italics.

*This is an incomplete first draft that needs some words completed where ... is.*

*The following transcript adheres to the one-party consent rule under Section 184(2) of the Canadian Criminal Code. Nevertheless, it is NOT FOR DISTRIBUTION. IT IS FOR REFERENCE PURPOSES ONLY. THE RECIPIENTS TO WHOM THIS DOCUMENT IS BEING SENT WERE PRESENT AND PART OF THIS CONVERSATION.*

2:45

So, we already shared ... on our website ... so that ... the idea ... all working groups can actually accomplish something, and then bring it back to be shared ... of the meeting and there would be an opportunity at the next couple of meetings to discuss it.

JB: ... so from my understanding, the .. is ..

3:30

KS: Yes. So there would be plenty of ... if there is ever a decision to be made, lots of notice will be given, it will on the large mailing list. It will be on the website. The date will be up there for anticipated to go over a couple of meetings. Nothing will be decided ... and that is one of the very few things that this group will actually decide on, that Good Neighbour Agreement.

JB: There are .. in the community that are ... engagement facilities. So I am a bit concerned as a good neighbour, to be approving something ..... the result that ... so if you

KS: It could be that this group might not want a good neighbour agreement and that's fine. This is just something that has worked for other neighbourhoods. It may not work for this neighbourhood.

CS: I can speak to that actually. As far as what we can tell, and certainly the position of the core group of Speak Up Fairfield is that this neighbourhood does not want to be neighbours and does not agree to be neighbours with Cool Aid and therefore, we do not want a Good Neighbour Agreement with Cool Aid.

DM: Thank you for that. There are other groups as well, that are represented here as well. There is the neighbourhood association, schools, city, and others, and the police, and typically the good neighbour agreements ... by what you agree to do, the city might say that there are some things that they agree to do, the church, whatever. You don't have to be a part of it, that might be something that we just want to hear the input from the neighbours about what we can do typically that's what we look at, what we agree ... so if you don't wish to be part of that, that's fine.

CS: Well, thank you Don. But the neighbourhood association stated publicly at the last meeting that it does not represent the neighbourhood. So just to be clear, if you want to have the neighbourhood association as part of this agreement, go right ahead, but they explicitly do not represent the neighbourhood.

KS: Well we can certainly reference ... we can reference in this agreement that there is ... in Fairfield that don't endorse this. That can certainly go into it. And if somebody from Speak Up Fairfield wants to participate and makes sure that this gets into this agreement that some people around this room might want to participate in this, that's fine.

Janet: I just want to say that, uh, Chris, you and I are neighbours, but you don't represent my views. [a clap] So, the facility is here, it is going to be here for a year, we need to figure out how to work together as a community.

CS: OK. I'd actually like to know how many people here actually do represent the Speak Up Fairfield viewpoint that we do not agree to be neighbours with Cool Aid.

JB: Can you stand up Chris?

CS: Should I stand up?

JB: Yeah.

WH: Question.

[voices]

1a CS: Oh, OK, yeah sure. I'd just like to know, right now as I understand it, I might only be the only public member of Speak Up Fairfield. There are more members to the group than I, and our position is that this neighbourhood should not agree to be neighbours with Cool Aid. That any agreement to be neighbours with Cool Aid is an implicit consent to Cool Aid's operation at Mount Edwards Court. So my question to the attendees is, how many people support Speak Up Fairfield's position that this neighbourhood does not consent to be neighbours with Mount Edwards Court. In other words, who does not consent to a permanent Cool Aid operation at Mount Edwards Court. [hands raise, counting] 15 people out of, how many people are actually neighbours at this meeting [a few homeless raise their hands] raise your hand, [counting] 27. 15 out of 27 neighbours do not consent to being neighbours with Cool Aid. *The young homeless man was part of the 27*

KS: Well, regardless Chris, we are here, we are here for a year so whether we consent to be neighbours or not, we are neighbours and we are trying to find the best way to work with you.

8:35

JB: And ... you are a community. We are good neighbours. Many of us were blindsided by the fact that you ... so now all of a sudden we are not considered good neighbours because we don't want to sign your good neighbour agreement. So I think that ... we appreciate that ... as well ... so I think that we want you to hear us very clearly, as Chris has noted, that we are very frustrated as well. I guess that I would also like to ask a question. How many people here are employed by the Cool Aid Society or by a housing employer? OK.

CS: How many people here are employed by the City or another agency?

1a DM: I just want to get back to the point that you wanted to voice your opinion ... you'd rather that we not be here. You don't want to sign the Good Neighbour Agreement. That's not everybody, and these meetings are about the folks that want to work together on making things the best we can over the next 12 months. This isn't about the long-term future and it's not about the rezoning, so we are going to continue with the meeting along that vein. You've made your point. You are welcome to continue to attend and make that point at each meeting,

CS: Well, that's,

DM: But then I want to attend and get on to the actual point of each meeting, working with the folks that have some feedback about ... over the next 12 months.

2 CS: I'm glad you said that, Don, because part of our objective to not consent to a Good Neighbour Agreement is to make sure that, instead of there being one person who supposedly represents the neighbourhood, that these community liaison meetings—neighbourhood liaison meetings—continue so that there is a forum for all neighbours to attend to address their concerns about the operations at Mount Edwards Court.

DM: Very good. Alright. So we are all on the same page, which is good.

Peter: Can I ask a question about Good Neighbour Policies. Are we engaging people who live in the building about how they would like to positive neighbours in this neighbourhood? Because I think that there are people who live at Mount Edwards who very much care about being a part of this community and also about being sure that positive rules are written about how we are going to interact in this community. And so, I would like to say, as much as we are having a small group from this part of the community, I can easily find 4 to 5 people who would love to engage with the community because we are working on that right now, how do we make a positive impact on the community. So I would like to say that if we are writing up Good Neighbour Agreement rules, if we are looking at that, it wouldn't be a fair process and it wouldn't be a legitimate process if we did not actually include the people who live in this residence.

DM: Very good. OK. Action items from last meeting. Chris Coleman?

11:00

3 L: I just want to make one ... for the people in the neighbourhood, we can't differentiate Mount Edwards from Tent City. They are two and the same.



CS: Larry, speak up.

3 I: We cannot differentiate Mount Edwards Court and Tent City. The people who are in Mount Edwards Court, the majority of them came from Tent City. If you are ever out in the neighbourhood at night, you will see the traffic go back and forth between the two places as well during the day. So what you are saying is that they might want to be neighbours with us, they haven't let go of the community that they have, living on the street, and those people have impacted our community in a very negative way, and I would also like to ask about the visitation policy at Mount Edwards Court. You said that there was to be no visitors in the first month, and then they would be allowed in. You opened on the 23<sup>rd</sup>; today is the 22<sup>nd</sup>, and that's one month.

DM?: ...

Peter?: Folks staying there

DM: OK. Moving on. Chris, you were going to report on City lighting pilot project perhaps.

5 CC: Yes. I ... last week and I gave a couple of bare bones about it. Public Works folks are working with parks folks and they are looking at four different types of LEDs: one section to go in on Rockland on the close part of Rockland, one to go on the Quadra street side looking at Pioneer park, one to go down Meares, and a different type to go in front of Mount Edwards Court itself. So, they are bringing in three, and what they are trying to do by having four different types is that they are trying to understand which lumens, the light that is cast by each light, actually works best, and then it is part of a pilot project since we are doing it throughout the City. They just took the opportunity to say, we can do this here and now. And it should be coming in in the next couple weeks I believe, or starting.

DM: Thank you for that. And we have been last time to do some feasibilities, some cost studies, on hiring security guards or security companies.

JS: Yeah, I have requested quotes from two local security companies to provide security from 7 in the morning to 11 at night, sixteen hours a day, to provide four shifts, and I'm just waiting for that, and once I have those, I will forward them to BC Housing to have a look at them. OK?

DDm: So, ... I thought that the request was to provide services from 7 AM to midnight, not,

JS: OK

KS: It was.

JS: Yeah, it was. Sorry, I did request from 7 to midnight. Sorry.

DM: And, uh, we had some comments about the presence of our community liaison. Can we speak to that as well?

DDm: I think that there was a question over there.

DM: Oh, sorry.

14:11

C GL: Hi, I'm wondering on the ... that was brought forward. Could the security be from 11 or 12 at night, could it be 24 hours a day, because a lot of activity is happening and there are a lot of neighbours who could speak to it, examples, but that is a time when activity increases, in those late hours.

DM: Yes. Thank you for that.

14:37

LH: Yeah, and on that note it might be a fear point, it might be that we do need 24-hour security until the tenting area is dismantled and then maybe to go back to 6 AM to midnight. So that might be something for BC Housing to consider as well.

DM: We will pass on the quotes for both of those to BC Housing and see what we have. And, community liaison?

JS: Yes. After last week's meeting, and very clear message that there were some concerns over presence of the community liaison folks out in front of the building and around the neighbourhood, I spoke to all staff, followed that up in an email to all staff, and you know just to please make that the number one shift priority, is to have somebody outside, and if that means, if

someone is coming inside to use the washroom or to have lunch, please someone else go back out the door to cover for them.  
OK.

DDm: I would say that it's not happening.

JS: OK.

DDm: Since the last meeting, not much has changed in this ... So I'm not sure if that's a lack of commitment, or a failure of your staff, or a failure of your management, or a failure of leadership on your behalf.

JS: You have noted times already?

DDm: I have not noted times, but I could certainly start to note the times. I have not been noting times, but I could certainly start noting times.

JS: Well, that would help.

DDm: OK

[voice]: ...

WH: Is that possible that you can call directly if you notice something of that nature, you can call the gentleman directly?

JS: Yeah, we can do that.

DDm: Sure.

16:28

JB: I would just like to make a comment. It's not our job to manage your staff. It's your job to manage your staff. So if this is a concern, I would suggest that we are not the ones that are supposed to be watching your staff. [applause]

JS: I thought that was an offer to exchange information about what is happening so I can, if there is a specific time during the day, I'm not asking you to manage my staff, I'm asking you to help me understand if there are times during the day or ebbs and flows. That's all. That's ... don't do it.

DDm: I do have to say that we are ...

JS: That's fine.

DDm: That's more often than not comes to ...

[lady]: Can I say that I see it also.

Peter: As community liaison, I break down what my day looks like to you, so there is an understanding of where I might be. I'm not standing right in front of the building. I get on at 6:30 in the morning. I do about a half-hour exchange with the staff that were on overnight so that I know what is going on, and then I take about half-an-hour to 45 minutes working with the building manager or the maintenance manager of the church. We do loops around the school. We do loops around the surrounding church. So you won't see me out front then for at least half an hour because I'm going out with the garbage bucket and the sharps containers and I'm cleaning up in the neighbourhood before the school kids come on. So that's basically until about 7:30. After that, I am to be on our block and on the school block until all the kids have gotten into school. From there, sometimes I will be out going through Pioneer Square, going through the church grounds, going through the school grounds, throughout the day. So though you might not see me directly in front of the building, I am viewing this as actively engaging the community. I'm trying to make sure that we are not just worrying about what's happening in front of our building, what's happening in the greater community in front of Tent City as well. So I will manage what I can manage about what happens at Tent City, but I know people, I can engage with people, and I can work on behalf of the community. Throughout the rest of the day, you might see me off for 5 or 10 minutes. Where that's happening, I just put out an email to all staff saying if I'm not out on the street with a vest on, everybody wear one throughout the day, and step outside, so I can run in and get a coffee, eat my lunch, those sort of things. The next part of it usually is, to be a good liaison with the community, I need to engage with the people inside the building. So there are times when I am working with our clients, either inside the building or outside, figuring out how the day is going, what's going on, so if an issue arises in the community, I am well aware of what's going on. So I'll

admit I have been having a lot of stress lately about what's been the idea that if I am on the side of the building and I see a bunch of people walk past the front and they don't notice me, are they assuming that I am not in my position, where often you walk in a two-block radius, you find that somewhere beyond that, but there has been, as a liaison, I am acknowledging that through emails received through Don and John, that there has been a lot of worry in the community that we are not out and about. So we are trying to be that as staff, I have more people come out when I'm not going to be around, and also just trying to let you know that, I'm out there, I just might not be right in front out there, and I think that if the desire is that you want us right in front of the building, I think that would not be giving better coverage to the rest of the community.

DM: Thanks Peter.

[lady]: Well,

DM: Sorry. Did you have something to say?

19:50

(d) [lady]: I asked if we can come to the middle of the day, about 1:30 or 2:00 in the afternoon, I was walking down Vancouver and I came up to not ... of a ... of Mount Saint Edwards and they had hot coffee and something else in their hand, and the cab driver asked them to not bring it into the cab. There was no liaison person there. They started swearing and screaming, threw the coffee, just missed me about by that much [indicated three feet] I wasn't hit but over the ... of swearing and then they got in the car and the cab driver was very distressed but I didn't see anybody at Mount Saint Edwards.

DM: OK

[lady]: And then on, I also run, I usually walk around the neighbourhood, and around 4:00 or 5:00 I believe I walked by there and I haven't seen anybody in that time frame.

DM: OK

[lady]: But that was very upsetting, the swearing and what have you, throwing the cup of coffee.

DM: We should have log books for the community to say something about that so we can follow up on that .... What happened there. I think there was item number 2,

(e) [different lady with English Accent, director?]: At the last meeting, it was suggested that the liaison people should just be within the spitting distance,

DM: Just the L-shape along the ...

[different lady with English Accent, director?]: and that this is where the other security people should be doing the greater area. So there should always be somebody in within that small area. So, hopefully, that might happen.

JS: We are specifically looking for folks to do that.

CS: Last,

JB: I just want to acknowledge and I really appreciate the work that you do, I really applaud you for the work that you are doing. I think, it is reflection though about what has happened in the community, to hear that in the morning before the kids go to school, somebody has to go out and pick up the rakes in the community, has to walk around. We live on Meares street. The community liaison officers with their bright orange jackets are walking down our street several times a day. So what happens is

22:13

(f) We are now basically living in, a bit of community under siege because we have to have security, we have to have community liaison officers out walking around who checks things, we now have various numbers to call if there are issues of security. So I just want to acknowledge that, in terms of that, the neighbourhood has changed completely, and so I just want to acknowledge that, and I really do appreciate your excellent work that you do in the community.

~~JS~~ Peter: For the record, I have not had a ... of that, on the parking lot ..., ... I picked it up. Those are on my walks and the maintenance person in the church, we have yet to, in the month, find any supplies laying around. So, I'll be honest, they are

small things and they can be missed, but the fact is that we are out and actively doing it because we know that it is a positive thing for the neighbourhood and the community, but that being said, besides picking up garbage, I have not found anything that is actually doing, been an immediate risk to the students.

DM: Thank you Peter.

CS: Just one...

23:12

TG: ... I've seen the civic workers that walk around with the little cart and the little ...,

DM: Do you mean ...?

TG: No they are usually downtown, they have been going down as far as Cook street in the area. And I have seen that for ever, so obviously somebody from City hall has got them moving their territory up a block.

KS: It's the business development association that hires them.

TG: Oh. OK.

KS: No so just so you know who they are.

TG: ...

GL: Can everyone speak up please.

DM: There is two groups. There is the one by the Downtown Business Improvement Association: they have safe teams. We have two clean safe teams in the neighbourhood: one working out of Sandy Merriman House and then we have one working out of Mount Ed ... those guys going around. Sorry Chris. Go ahead.

CS: Oh yeah. On a related note, I want to just point out that [directed to stand up] oh yeah, on a related note I just want to point out that at the last meeting, there was a lot of dialogue about there being a need for two people in front of Mount Edwards Court and then two people to patrol the neighbourhood

DM: That's right.

CS: so that, I think it was Larry that made the point, that there are people always standing there to deter stuff, and then two people doing a sophisticated pattern in order to prevent there from being drug dealers, so that there is no way that the drug dealers or any other stuff could take place. Um, I think part of this is just the problem of how difficult it is going to be, and I think impossible, for you to manage the impact of some residents. I called Cool Aid on Sunday because there was a man—this is his photo—and he, as I was walking and there was an odd sense, so I went up my front steps and I looked, and he had stopped, he turned, and he was looking at me, so I walked again and I came up to my door and I keyed my door, I opened my door, and I turned and again, he had gone a few steps more, but he was now staring at me some more, so I went inside. I closed the door. And I mentioned it to my wife. She looked out the window and she said "he's standing in front of the house." And he was standing out front of the house. He looked angry and he was standing there, staring at my place. So, I go back outside and I say "Hey can I help you?" and he's like "you said something to me." And I was like "I didn't say anything to you, man." And then he said something that was incomprehensible and he started to walk a bit and he stared back. And I was like "why are you standing (or staring) at my house." And then he said something incomprehensible and he walked some more. So I turned and I went back to my house but he stopped and he was standing there now in front of the parking lot next to my place, and he was looking at me, and so I pulled out my phone and I took these two photographs, and at that point, he started walking away. Right. Because I had essentially captured an image of the guy. [showing the phone to DM.] Do you recognize him?

DM: He's not from Mount Edwards.

CS: OK. Well I called the police. I made the report. I sent them these photos. I also called and spoke with Lauren at Cool Aid,

DM: Yeah

CS: at your place

3

9

DM: Yep.

CS: and spoke with her. And then forty minutes later, my wife and I took a long route, so we took Cook since, you know, this place is impacting us not just in this not just in this but that it becomes less comfortable

DM: OK

CS: on Vancouver Street

DM: OK

CS: So we took Cook and we walked around some unusual route, came up along Meares and this same person was going down into one of the parkades, at the corner of Vancouver and Meares, so just this one right here [points] right in front of Mount Edwards Court

DM: OK.

CS: So just the proximity, the circumstances, suggest that he might be someone associated with, whether he is a resident of Mount Edwards Court or just knows...

DM: He's not a resident of Mount Edwards Court. So like you say, who knows. Did you call Terry, did you call the police, when you saw him going into the parkade perhaps?

CS: I called the police. I made a report. I have a number, a police report number. I emailed these images

DM: I saw your email.

CS: OK. I called—Did you see the email that I sent to Lauren?

DM: I am not sure I did.

CS: Because it's very strange. I tried sending it twice and it was very odd that I don't have it in my sent items box. Very unusual. But regardless, I called the police.

DM: I saw the one that you forwarded to me. I have that one. Yeah. Look, and it's not one of our residents for sure.

CS: That was the one I sent then. OK.

DM: OK. Yeah.

CS: Alright.

DM: Yeah. So that is an interesting thing. I mean, in that case, I would like to be able to say a few things—if you have someone who you think might need some assistance or if you are worried about what they are going to do, I'd like you to be able to call Peter, and have Peter go down and check, you know, if there is something to help, um, but we also want to be a presence right out front of Mount Ed too, so, I'd say please call ... and then we'll come right back, you know, we just want to engage with these folks, we know them and maybe we can help or if they need assistance maybe we can support but don't hesitate to phone the police if you see someone like that that requires their assistance. I mean, that's what we do as well. I don't want to prevent that from happening. But if there is something that we can do about the relationship.

Lady: I guess that's right. A little bit fuzzy because the Community Liaison, I'm assuming, is for Mount Ed, right? The neighbourhood, clean up and .... We were just ... tent city, and I guess there should be, like that one showed, the security, that's a whole other issue, it happens to be close by. So I think that's what's confusing me right now, and I think, like, Cool Aid's about housing with support, and I think sometimes you're trying to come across like you're wanting to do the best, which you are, but you can't do everything because you are a small organization, and your mandate is a certain thing. But I've only been to a couple of these meetings because I'm working, right? And kinda lose the flow of it, too. But, um, I'm just really confused. I've been by several times, I live in the neighbourhood, I've seen a security guard blow bubbles one day. And I'm like, just leave it, right? You know, that's OK. But, a lot of times in the evenings, I'm not seeing anybody visible there and I'm out there a lot. I live close by. But, um, yeah, I'm glad to see the Mayor's here. There's a huge concerns. We do want what's best for people who are onerous and have some health issues and, but, we need a forum to kind of talk, because there is a lot of concern about

what may happen with more people ... and making a move there, and sort of feels like we've got a building, and we've got a band-aid solution on it, so, anyways.

Young man resident of Mount Edwards who was seated behind the front table (YMRME): .....

Voices: Can you stand up please? Can you stand up? We can't hear you.

30:40

YMRME: I'm just curious if there has been a dramatic rise in problems since Mount Edwards started or if it's been just possibly from tent city.

Larry: As a neighbour of Mount Edwards, I can attest that it's happening and I would say that the most interesting thing I saw was how on February 23<sup>rd</sup>, the neighbourhood turned into the vibe of a ghetto. Instantly.

Lady: Instantly.

CS: Yeah.

[Applause.]

Larry: They are residents of Tent City who are still connected to Mount Edwards now feel as though they own the neighbourhood where people who like to, like Chris ran into, that during the daylight hours when they can blend into the population, go around and scout everybody's backyards, everybody's properties, so they can trade/sell that information with other people who can come back later in the day. I'm on Meares street; I've had people in my yard but not steal anything because I was, a while ago, nothing left to steal. Every single one of my neighbours down the block on Meares, other than the townhouse, which I'm not sure about, has been broken into and their backyard since the opening of Mount Edwards.

DM: OK. Two items on. We have a police report, which we talked about, calls and crimes and things like that, but Chris, while I've got you, there was an action item about asking the neighbours who have been recording the sessions to provide a transcript of the minutes, and you have indicated that you are, the core group has decided that they don't want to do that?

CS: Yeah, there was a majority vote against doing that, so I've requested that, nevertheless, Kathy Stinson and John Sherratt include my amendments in the minutes as they are based on a transcript which I know you have not seen but which, by attendance, you should know are accurate.

DM: Well, I'll add an addendum to the minutes and label it as such, if that's necessary.

CS: Oh. So, you will,

DM: Oh. You might have missed the very first part where we just deferred the approval of the minutes from last time because we just handed them out today and you said that you wanted to have a look at them first.

CS: Yes, and I wanted to have a chance to present them here since Counsilar Coleman helped me with an understanding that its very important to say what we want those changes to be here in the minutes since those minutes belong to this whole committee. So, to go through them here, maybe get a sense of what others think, and then to send you an actual email, maybe, for your convenience, so you could just take what I send you and put it into that amendment, um, addendum.

DM: Well, we can do that at the next meeting and it will give a chance for everyone else to send in any amendments, and we can go through that for next,

CS: Yeah, I'd like to just speak to the point that Larry,

DM: I would kind of like to move on to let Terry speak, she is the police officer with the update from the police. So if we could do that.

CS: OK.

TH: Hi, I'm Terry Healy, one of the community resource officers with Victoria Police, so, I'm new to the meeting. This is my first time here. I am in place of Dan O'Conner, who is off this week. So, my apologies, I've tried to get up to speed as much as I can, and I'm very familiar with some of the issues with the area, so hopefully I can answer any questions as best as possible. Just an

(L) update of the last two weeks about calls for services for the area, and, how we do it, it is called an Adam Query, and it is part of our stats process, but I queried an Adam around Mount Edwards, which includes Mount Edwards, so that's Meares, Vancouver, Burdett, Quadra, and so it captures any calls, completed calls for service in that area. And I noticed your last meeting was on the 15<sup>th</sup>, so I hope that I'm not repeating anything that Dan has stated previously, but I noticed two calls for service: one was directly to 1002 Vancouver, and that was for a male causing a disturbance and that was actually called in by staff and that was dealt with by police and staff, and the second was a residential B and E and that was in the 900 block of Meares that was reported to us as well. One thing I actually thought, and I don't know if Dan has mentioned this before, but we have a really good tool on our website, that's [www.vicpd.ca](http://www.vicpd.ca), and through there under the Crime Prevention tab is something called Crime Reports, and you can actually go in there and you can zero in on an area, it will bring up a whole map of the city, and you can zero in on an area and see, it will put little dots of incidents in that particular area, and it will actually detail what they are. So if it's a motor vehicle incident, if it's a B and E, if it's a suspicious circumstance, and assault, it will give that type. It won't show the specific address, but it will show in the block, so if you've got a B and E on the 900 block of Meares, it will show up. And it's very current.

35:33

TH: It's updated, I want to say every 48 hours, and it's a great tool, I think, for the public, I think, to have a look and go and see exactly what is going on in the neighbourhood. OK?

DM: Any questions for Terry?

(M) JB: Thank you for coming to the meeting. I think it's great that the police have a presence. I think it's unfortunate that we have to include the police in this type of setting in our community as good neighbours. I think one of the things that we at some point we might want to expand what is considered your stats, since I'm not sure that a reflection of just a block or a two-block radius is necessarily appropriate. I think, again, I'd like to acknowledge that it is unfortunate that now as citizens we have to learn how to go onto the big police PD reports to find out the stats of break and enters in our community and in our neighbourhood, which is most unfortunate for Victoria. But I do think that what would be useful as the minutes are recorded, there are a lot of standing items that are coming up, what would be useful is perhaps a table on the minutes that would reflect the kinds of things that are going to happen. Perhaps those types of things can be said in advance, so we don't to have these kinds of standing reports that can expedite the meeting a little quicker. Because those are the standing stats that all of us are interested in, and I think that one of the things, as Larry pointed out, we were the ones that report at our ... we reflected the night, most recently, that was because we were away, and the person that was staying at our home, we never would have had someone stay at our home before, because of all the situation, we are insuring now that we have security at our home, someone staying there. So I think what will happen is a fault in the number of statistics will not necessarily reflect that we feel that things are good. It's just that there's nothing left to steal since people have everything under lock and key and that is the kind of neighbourhood that we are creating in Victoria.

(N) TH: And I think that we know too, that a lot of things go under-reported, so I think that's why it's good for me to be here, to also just a reminder that simple things like maybe a couple things were stolen out of your backyard, it may be something that we are going to send a police officer specifically to come and investigate, but we're a stats-driven organization so it's good for us to know where and when that's happening so we at least have a record of it so we can allocate resources.

(P) ~~... we are going to send a police officer specifically to come and investigate, but we're a stats-driven organization so it's good for us to know where and when that's happening so we at least have a record of it so we can allocate resources.~~

JB: For example, if every week somebody from the police is going to come and provide a report on the latest statistics on break and enters or whatever, if that's going to happen, then instead of you having to stand up and do this report, there is notes that go out in advance of the meeting or minutes, then it just becomes a standing item or table.

TH: OK

(O) JB: Because there is a lot of things that people are going to you know some of us will have stories to tell, and I'm not sure that we have time to hear everyone's story, if this is supposed to be an information sharing, then two things, this should truly be information sharing, and if we have bitches and complaints then we will figure out a way to do that. Secondly, if this is going to be a good neighbour ~~... to have a place where people can hear~~ So if you are going to hold a meeting, hold it in a room where it can be clustered as if we are up around a campfire. And if we wanted a campfire, we know where we could go to get one. And so, let's find it like an information sharing meeting, get the stats, get the information

39:08

J8: and run it so that we can be efficient with this time, and also efficient with the ... [clapping]

M Lady: I think the neighbourhood and its ... being reported should go a bit further. I did report last week a break and entry into my back yard, which is not the first time since Mount Edwards, and a back yard ... was stolen and they tried to take out my husband's mobility scooter but couldn't get it out and that was in broad daylight. I did call to report that. That was at the bottom of Quadra and Collinson. That's about the fourth time that somebody has entered into our backyard and taken stuff. There has been an increased number of garbage dumped at my back and some of it is not nice stuff like sharps and other things. Now, I don't know if that's also Tent City ... at the meeting today. There is also ... and a whole bunch of junk left at my back yard and my garbage can has been knocked over and filled. I have had to deal with my garbage can getting filled and getting rid of it. And there has been an increase in graffiti in the neighbourhood. I've got my spray, my can, and then it is graffitied over. I don't report the graffiti. I did report the battery charger. \$250 for a new one. And, when I called to find out about the price of that, I found out "Oh, there has been a rash of batteries for scooters stolen in your area. Do you know that?" That's what they told me at the scooter store. So I'm at the bottom of Quadra and Collinson so maybe the neighbourhood reports should include that since you didn't obviously include that in this report.

4 TH: No and that's something we can discuss is how detailed do we want to get since obviously I cannot report on the entire city but we want to have an accurate account that includes I would hope everybody that is a resident neighbour of this area. That's a discuss that we can have. Just one note on the graffiti: if you don't want to call it in, our online reporting system is great, it's quick. All you need is an email address, generates a file number like that. It saves you time, it saves us time, and there is still a record made. So in that instance I would think online reporting would be great.

??: ....?

TH: [www.vicpd.ca](http://www.vicpd.ca). And even if you take photos of the graffiti, you can upload them onto the online reporting and they will be attached right onto the file.

Lady: There is graffiti everywhere.

Another Lady: Everywhere.

TH: I know. And obviously you have to

Voices: You see them everywhere....

TH: For sure.

Lady: The neighbourhood has changed.

FC: I'd like to ask a question.

TH: Sure.

FC: About statistics that you make available to the public. You are talking about crime, but also, do you make available statistics to how you assign patrol cars to different neighbourhoods? Because in the past, we have heard from Vic PD that the patrol cars are assigned to neighbourhood based on the needs. I can tell you that in the eight years that I have lived here, I have barely seen a police car in my neighbourhood but now every single time I step out of my house, every time, there's a police car. Always. And I'd like to ... that because of course they might be preventing a ... because there is some issue there. I'd like to be able to see the stats for the police assignment of patrol cars and also stats for overtime hours.

TH: It's not stats for assignment of patrol. It's assignment of patrol in response to statistics. So if we see an area where there is an increase of calls for statistics, then we will allocate resources of patrol based on that increase.

FC: But you said ... here. ... police cars all the time.

DM: I believe committed to having some increased patrols when Mount Edward went in so ... have asked for increased patrols and they have responded to do what they could.

TH: But like someone mentioned here, those stats that I gave were for that particular Adam which is maybe too small of an area so maybe we need to increase that.

DM: OK.



TH: It's challenging for us to discern what is the root cause of the issues. So are some of these related to Tent City, are they in relation to Mount Edwards, are they in relation to general issues we had in this area already prior to either of those things happening. So it's sometimes really difficult for us to tell.

DM: ...

CS: Yeah, I would like to address a few things at this point. Uh, firstly I think Mount Edwards Court is just a you know, I think Mount Edwards Court is essentially an extension of Tent City given the circumstances and just as one person pointed out, the day that Mount Edwards Court opened I too noted a change in the neighbourhood as far as who was walking the streets. There has been discussion about the question about has crime actually increased. And yes, at the last meeting, there was much discussion that crime has increased since the opening of Mount Edwards. There was something that you noted in your first minutes on February 29<sup>th</sup> that one person commented that crime has stayed the same. And interestingly enough, I was contacted by email by the man who owns the building in which that person rents her apartment and he wrote me the following: "we would like to express our extreme concern"—and he told me that, I asked him if I could read this and he said I could—"our extreme concern over the proposal to house more homeless, drug-addicted, and mentally-ill residents at Mount Edwards on Vancouver Street. Our building is located one-and-a-half blocks from that location and is currently experiencing increased traffic on our property from mentally-ill and drug-addicted persons. Two weeks ago there was a near-fatal overdose in our parking lot and our residents are becoming increasingly concerned and frightened. At least two of our tenants have told us that they are considering moving from our building as a result of the ongoing problems in our area and particularly the planned increase in housing for those in our neighbourhood. This area has historically been a quiet residential neighbourhood. There are many apartment buildings within a eight-block radius of Mount Edwards. No matter what arguments are made in favour of housing homeless, ill, and addicted people in this neighbourhood, you cannot ignore the fear and concern of those living in the area. It will irrevocably change the neighbourhood." Now, I bring this up since Janet, this is from Leighton Lovitt, who is the man who owns the building in which you live, and you've said that things haven't changed. But he's made it very clear that other people who live in your building have noted that the crime rate has increased. So to answer your question, yes, many people feel that the crime rate, and have noted that the crime rate has increased.

DM: Thank you. OK. Moving on. One more please. I just want to get through a quick update and then we are ...

Lady: I have a question for the man from Mount Edwards.

DM: Perfect.

Lady: What is the ... from Tent City?

LH Mayor: you are asking me what the update is on tent city?

Took the, what's that, oh sorry. I have no idea. The city's not involved. The province took the tenting area to court to try and get an injunction. The court case was to a Friday a Monday and a Tuesday and no decision has been made so maybe BC Housing or someone else has an update but really it's the Province is working on trying to make sure that the people who are tenting have a place to live and then close down the Tent City but the City is not involved at all. It's really, so, I don't know that I know any more than what I read in the media at this point. But, uh, BC Housing might have an update. Did you have an update.

RB?: ... on a decision. So the judge has ... fair. They have had a court case on Friday, then again on Tuesday and then the judge has gone away to make his decision and we are waiting on what his decision will be.

Lady: ...

RB?: No we haven't. No.

YMRME: ... we're not sure whether it is going to be the last one or not.

LH Mayor: Sorry, Thursday there is going to be another court date?

YMRME: Yeah, there is one on Thursday and then I'm not sure whether he is making his choice or not.

LH Mayor: Thank you.

YMRME: Yeah. Good.

DM: Anything else from the City? I'm sorry the City, the Police? No?

Larry: I just wanted to ask you, since Mount Edwards was pushed into this community as an emergency shelter for tent city, since it looks like tent city is going to continue, does that make Mount Edwards redundant.

DM: I'm trying to follow.

Larry: Because if it was put in as a solution to tent city, the emergency that tent city continues to be, then Mount Edwards might as well not be in place because we still have tent city.

DM: Well we have 38 residents for the next twelve months. That's what we're trying to do. To make sure that we have some way to communicate about what's happening in the neighbourhood.

Lady: Well, there's no way to judge that until we have a court decision.

DM: Alright.

?: ... anything that you can think of ...?

?: No updates all quiet. We are on spring break right now so there is nothing ... .

DM: I want to take some time right now ... so we can get through some questions.

CS: I have to mention the amendments too before this hour is up.

DM: Is there anybody from the church here who could give a little update? No? OK, Don from the neighbourhood association.

?: From the church, ... is there any question?

DM: Just if there is an update, any observations, experiences.

?: No, nothing all pretty much the same. The complication is tent city in terms of... .

Lady: Same.

WH: Uh, from the Community Association, we are still a resource. Sometimes your questions are not getting answered. We can forward those questions to the appropriate people and try a little harder. Other than that, we just want to see how this is going to work out for the neighbourhood. We are still here. We don't speak for the neighbourhood but we want to make sure that the neighbourhood has the opportunity to speak.

?: Thanks Wayne.

DM: That is the ... so thank you for waiting.

?: Thank you.

10 J.B.  
+  
So one of the big things here about being neighbours is, as the neighbourhood and all of us have different opinions and I think that all of us agreed that all of us want what is best for the neighbourhood. And I think that all of us agreed that there has to be some sort of a solution for the homeless. None of us, if we ask that, all of us agree that that is an issue. I think what we disagree with is, what is the process, and for us, what is Mount Edwards and what does that look like. And I think that one of the bigger issues here is that we are nickel and diming here of some of this stuff, from my perspective, I think that what needs to happen is that there needs to be process established that we start talking about a year from now, because we are already into eleven months away. What is going to happen a year from now? You know, its good neighbour agreement, who cares, because if, a year from now, the idea is that there is going to be a 101 people living in there, that's a completely different discussion in the neighbourhood than if there is 38. And so I would ask that, you know, us getting together and doing this information sharing, frustrated with each other and ticked off and different views and we share stories, I think that if there is going to be some leadership, there was no leadership by the provincial government by ramming this into the community. Uh, we were away so we were not able to participate but it doesn't appear that there is any leadership by the fact that now there is going to be this 38 possibly but a lot of us are going what the hell does a year look like. There's a lot of people very very concerned about the fact that this is a no-barrier, no-holds-barred access to the neighbourhood. And so there is a lot of other big issues, and so far, we are looking down here. So if there is some leadership by Cool Aid, by BC Housing, or by whoever is

supposed to be in charge, this is our community, and the reason why we are so ticked is because this was put into our community, and now you folk who have good jobs, who go back to your homes that don't have people patrolling in front of you every hour, don't have people walking by your neighbourhood, are saying: well, if we want what's best, we want to help you out. And that's what we are frustrated with. I can sure as shooting say that the school, are you from the school [directs his statement to Stuart Hall], are you the principle?

SH: Yes.

JB: And what are the, how is the enrolment for next year? Like those are the issues. If this is our community, let's work, like, we have huge concerns right, and these meetings,

52:36

DM: Once again, these are not about those... there is going to be a process of community consultation called the CALUC process that goes through the neighbourhood association. The future of Mount Ed is going to be a number of meetings about that.

JB: This is,

DM: This is simply about a forum where operations issues, concrete, pragmatic things that we can do over the next twelve months because we are here, we have 38 residents for twelve months, that's all these are about. I hear you, there is going to be a lot of talking about those larger issues but that's not what this is for.

JB: Rest assured, I can tell you that a lot of people regardless are seeing this as perhaps being a bigger forum than that.

DM: Right.

JB: Because, if we couldn't trust you, Cool Aid, and the province and this municipality for what's going to because this was rammed down our throats,

DM: yeah,

JB: Because Cool Aid was no negotiation, no planning, no community, and then suddenly it was rammed down our throats then how do think that we can even trust you now. That's what this is about.

DM: We're asking for your trust. That's why I'm asking for you to let us know whether there is something that we can do over the next twelve months other than go away, which we cannot do right now.

JB: That's why I think someone needs to come and say what the future looks like in the next twelve months, if there is going to be zoning, because we hear from one end the province is going to do what they want, and on the other end we hear other things.

DM: it will be rezoned.

JB: So I would just say,

KS: Can I speak to that because we have been over this at every meeting so far and we have committed to a very open process that will lead into the rezoning, that will happen in advance of the rezoning, and that will not start until probably about May, because we were hoping that the tent city issue could be resolved first. If the tent city issue goes on, obviously we are going to have to rethink that, but the commitment was as of May, we would start talking about the future process prior to going forward with a rezoning because if you go to a rezoning you already have to have your vision, so we don't want to come to a rezoning that already has a vision feedback from the neighbourhood ... So we've made that commitment over and over again and that's where it's going to start.

CS: I can confirm that Ms. Stinson, Ms. Hartman, and Councilor Coleman spoke extensively about the fact that that's going to take place. I see that we're already over. I see that I have about 60 seconds to tie this up, and I'd like to get these amendments read off at this meeting if that's possible.

DM: Amendments for the meeting that,

CS: Amendments for the March 15 meeting.

DM: Can we not wait until people email in other amendments and then we have them all at once at the next meeting, because you might not be the only one who wants to submit amendments.

CS: Yeah, sure, if that's what people want to do. Yeah.

DM: Alright. And then Wayne had a point and can have the last word.

Lady: Yeah, I'd just say that,

DM: Or, Wayne.

FC: ...

Lady: Can you speak up?

Another Lady: Can you stand up?

FC: ... meeting, ... Mr. Butcher actually said that after twelve months this contract of twelve months, after twelve months, it's up to Cool Aid, so therefore how is the relationship with Cool Aid ... BC Housing and Cool Aid ... because one thing we do know is that Cool Aid only does low-barrier housing. That's all they do. So if this is going to continue with BC Housing, with Cool Aid, after the twelve months, that's a given thing that of course ... Mr. Butcher, that inevitably ... the answer to your question is that Cool Aid will bring the low-barrier housing into our neighbourhood. And every time I step out of my house ... it's like I'm living in the Downtown East Side seeing people ... so, seeing people look in my car.

DM: OK, so did you ask ... for ...?

FC: I did. So ... after twelve months.

RB: We have been operating agreement with the Victoria Cool Aid Society to operate Mount Saint Edwards for a one-year period. As Kathy Stinson said, starting in May there will be community consultations around the rezoning of the property working in conjunction with the Fairfield Gonzales Community Centre and the community at large.

FC: But it is going to be run by Cool Aid. ..., after twelve months.

RB: We made an agreement,

FC: ...

RB: ... just ...

FC: ... if you are going to let everybody know that after 12 months it will be a Cool Aid building and a Cool Aid building means low-barrier housing,

DM: We also do senior's housing.

FC: ...

[Many faint voices]

DM: OK. Good. We do have to wrap up.

YMRME: I just want to say, as a member, as a member of the homeless community, to hear your concerns and all that you are expressing, one of the things that I have noticed is that no matter where we go, we are getting shoved out, whether it is parks or in doorways, any neighbourhood around the whole city is saying, get out of here, so that is a big part of the problem since no one is inviting us in and saying hey love to have you here, you're saying get out. So it makes it very difficult to find a good solution that makes everybody happy because if we are not in your neighbourhood, we're in someone else's neighbourhood and it ... and less shuffling you know.

FC: They are saying that ...



Christopher Schmidt [REDACTED]

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## Mount Edwards Neighbour Meeting, April 5th

2 messages

Kathy Stinson [REDACTED]

Fri, Apr 1, 2016 at 6:21 PM

To: Don McTavish [REDACTED], "Hall, Stuart" [REDACTED]

Cc: John Sherratt [REDACTED]

Dear Mount Edwards Neighbours,

You are receiving this email because you requested to be on the mailing list.

Attached are minutes from the March 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting. We will be looking for acceptance of these minutes at our April 5<sup>th</sup> meeting along with previously redistributed and amended minutes from March 8<sup>th</sup> and March 15<sup>th</sup>.

Please remember that the minutes of these meetings are meant to capture: general themes; any specific concerns or issues and related solutions; and any agreed upon action items. They are not meant to be a verbatim record; and opinions or commentary will be kept to a minimum.

I would ask that unless something substantive has been missed that we try and minimize amendments.

An agenda for Tuesday night's meeting (**7 pm in the Cathedral Chapter Room**) is also attached.

All of this information will also be available on our web-site: [www.CoolAid.org/mtedwards](http://www.CoolAid.org/mtedwards)

I do want to emphasize that the purpose of these Neighbour Meetings is to:

- address immediate concerns related to the **current** operation of Mount Edwards;
- provide a forum where concrete issues can be identified and we can work together to find practical solutions to address them.

These meetings are not meant to provide a forum for people to express feelings or opinions about the program or people at Mount Edwards; nor are they an opportunity to discuss or debate the future of the property. It is not a meeting where motions are entertained or votes are taken..

Regards, Kathy

Kathy Stinson CPA, CMA

Chief Executive Officer



Victoria Cool Aid Society



102-749 Pandora Avenue

Victoria, BC V8W 1N9

[www.CoolAid.org](http://www.CoolAid.org)

*Together we will end homelessness.*

Victoria Cool Aid Society acknowledges the Lekwungen and WSÁNEĆ peoples of the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations, on whose traditional territories we build homes, lives, and community. HÍSWKE.

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2 attachments

**Mount Edwards Court Neighbourhood Meeting Draft Minutes March 22.pdf**  
131K

**MtEd Neighbourhood Mtg Agenda 040516.docx**  
19K

*identical to  
the version sent  
three minutes later*

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Kathy Stinson <kstinson@coolaid.org>  
To: Kathy Stinson <kstinson@coolaid.org>

Fri, Apr 1, 2016 at 6:24 PM

April 13

## Mount Edwards Court Neighbourhood Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 22, 2016

Gymnasium, Cathedral School Victoria, BC

Don McTavish, Cool Aid introduced himself as co-chair

An agenda was circulated and accepted with the following change:

- Move the Good Neighbour Agreement item first

Everyone in the circle introduced themselves and their connection

- Mayor Helps and Chris Coleman, City Councilor were in attendance
- Reps from the Fairfield Gonzales Community Assoc. in attendance were Wayne Hollohan, Land Use committee
- Heidi Hartman and Roger Butcher from BC Housing were in attendance
- Teri Healey from VicPD was present
- Kathy Stinson, Cool Aid agreed to take Minutes: will capture general themes and any action or follow-up items; opinions will not be recorded.

An attendance sheet was circulated – minutes will be emailed and posted on the Cool Aid web-site; go to: [www.CoolAid.org/mtedwards](http://www.CoolAid.org/mtedwards)

Minutes from the meeting of March 15<sup>th</sup> were distributed for acceptance at the next meeting.

**NOTE:** Frustration was expressed at the outset and throughout the meeting regarding the acoustics in the room; it was challenging to hear and speakers were encouraged to stand and speak loudly.

### Good Neighbour Agreement

Standup Fairfield members polled the room to determine that 15 out of 27 present do not want to be

Mount Edwards neighbours. They see no differentiation between Mount Edwards and Tent City. They

agree to be neighbours with Mount Edwards. We don't want to sign the GNA.

Cool Aid noted that regardless of this perspective, we will be providing housing and support to 38 people in the Mount Edwards facility for the next year. Cool Aid wants to ensure that we do the best job we can with the least impact on the neighbourhood. We will work with the neighbours who want to work us, if the larger group is not interested in participating in a Good Neighbour Agreement that is fine.

Mount Edwards residents will be included in the process.

Individuals interested in participating in a small working group should contact Kathy Stinson via email: [kstinson@CoolAid.org](mailto:kstinson@CoolAid.org). We will try and organize a meeting for the week of March 28<sup>th</sup>.

Our next large group meeting will be two weeks out (April 5<sup>th</sup>) to allow the working group an opportunity to meet.

### **Action Items from the previous meeting:**

#### **1. Chris Coleman to provide an update on lighting:**

- Public Works are working with Parks on a 4 part pilot project with respect to LED lighting in the precinct:
  - a) Along Rockland between Quadra & Vancouver;
  - b) Along Quadra, facing Pioneer Park;
  - c) Along Meares, between Quadra & Vancouver; &
  - d) Along Vancouver between Meares & Rockland (ie Facing the frontage of MEC)
- The reason these are seen as distinct aspects of the precinct plan is that each component will have different types of LED lights (giving a variety of "lumens", or shades of light) to the area. In this way the project may be adjusted as the impacts of the options are assessed.
- The installation is hoped to occur in the next couple of weeks.

#### **2. Cool Aid to work with BC Housing on the feasibility of hiring security guards to augment the Community Liaison position:**

- Cool Aid is in the process of getting quotes; John mentioned for the hours of 7 am to 11 pm; but clarified that he will be seeking quotes from 7 am to midnight.
- Neighbours are asking for 24 hour security; Lisa Helps suggested 24 hours might be best while Tent City is in place.
- Cool Aid will get quotes for all scenarios.
- Chris S added that in a previous meeting a desire was expressed for 2 people in front of Mount Edwards and 2 people patrolling the neighbourhood.

#### **3. Cool Aid to work with staff to improve presence of Community Liaison around Mount Edwards:**

- John advised that he had spoken with all staff regarding the importance of this issue
- Neighbours asserted that it is not happening
- Peter (Community Liaison staff) provided a brief overview of what he does:
  - 6:30am-Arrive, check in with the night shift about any updates from the community
  - 7:00am- Neighborhood clean-up before school. I walk around the school ground and the church grounds, cleaning up any garbage. I carry "safe disposal equipment" in case I find any harm reduction gear (to date, no needles have been found).
  - 7:30-8:45am- Doing rounds on our block and the school block talking with parents and neighbors. Making sure that kids and parents are comfortable and safe while arriving.
  - 9:00am-3:00pm- Walking around our building, engaging with community and clients about the day's activities. Doing occasional walks around the church, school and Pioneer Square. Helping clients with neighborhood "chores" like "Clean and Safe" graffiti removal, gardening etc.



- o 3pm-4:30pm- Doing rounds on our block and the school block talking with parents and neighbors. Making sure that kids and parents are comfortable and safe while leaving.

- d. A neighbour recounted an incident that she had observed outside Mount Edwards when the Community Liaison did not appear to be present – 2 residents waiting for a cab got into an argument with cab driver – they were trying to bring coffee with them; there was swearing and yelling and the coffee was thrown – almost hitting the neighbour
- e. Another neighbour reinforced the idea that the Community Liaison should stay closer to the building – just patrolling the L shape around Mount Edwards
- f. Some neighbours shared their feeling that they were a 'community under siege'; that the flavour has changed
- g. Chris S recounted an incident from Sunday - a man in the neighbourhood had seemed to be <sup>angrily</sup> following him and had stopped outside his house; <sup>he stare menacingly at his house</sup> was staring and appeared to be angry; Chris asked him why he was <sup>staring</sup> and the man <sup>denied</sup> was not a resident of Mount Edwards; Chris <sup>saw</sup> <sup>inadvertently</sup> <sup>being</sup> <sup>passing</sup> him 40 minutes later walk up Cook Street to Meares and enter a parkade. <sup>near Meares and Vancouver</sup>
- h. Another neighbor questioned why the Community Liaison staff would be going to tent city; perhaps the staff is trying to do too much; he is confused about what is trying to be accomplished – and is not seeing staff out in the evening; suggests this is a 'bandaid' solution.
- i. Someone asked the question 'has there been a dramatic rise in problems since Mount Edwards opened - response of many neighbours was yes; the term 'instant ghetto' was used <sup>the neighborhood</sup> - OK.
- j. John S acknowledged that it is Cool Aid's responsibility to ensure that our staff are present outside in the manner we have committed to. - OK

**ACTION: Cool Aid will continue to follow-up with BC Housing regarding security; Cool Aid will continue to tighten up the Community Liaison presence.**

- Offer by a Speak Up member
- 4. ~~Standup~~ Fairfield neighbours to provide a transcript of meeting to be included with minutes:
    - No transcript will be provided <sup>as Speak Up Fairfield core membership</sup> A majority <sup>of Speak Up Fairfield core membership</sup> voted against sharing the transcript.
  - 5. Cool Aid to ask VicPD to attend in order to provide updates on any neighbourhood calls:
    - VicPd will ensure a representative attends with information

## Updates

### VicPD:

- Y. Teri is familiar with the <sup>the</sup> neighbourhood and its issues <sup>of the area</sup>
- Y. She looked at calls for service in the last 2 weeks in the immediate area of Mount Edwards from Meares to Burdett and Vancouver to Quadra
- There were 2 calls for service:
  - o a male causing a disturbance
  - o a residential B&E on Meares

- Teri described how to access crime reports on the VicPD web-site – zero in on an area; details are provided (NOTE: the system has been experiencing problems and is not currently working)

③ Neighbours expressed skepticism at these numbers; suggested expanding the area being reported on.

⑥ Another neighbour suggested there was nothing left to steal.

⑧ Teri acknowledged that underreporting is an issue.

⑨ A neighbor noted that there had been a B&E in his backyard (bottom of Quadra and Collinson) and that a battery charger had been stolen; he had reported it.

⑦ It was suggested that rather than take up too much time at the meeting that VicPD provide a table overview of stats in advance.

⑤ Neighbours reported that there was increased garbage including sharps and increased graffiti everywhere. *A neighbour reported junk being left in backyard and her garbage can being filled.*  
A neighbor questioned how patrol cars are assigned as she noted there seemed to be way more in the area than before; if based on needs as evidenced by calls, it doesn't add up with the stats as presented.

④ Chris S. read from a letter provided by a nearby apartment building manager (1.5 blocks from Mount Edwards) noting extreme concern with increased traffic and a near fatal overdose; 2 tenants are considering moving; their historically quiet residential neighbourhood has been irrevocably changed. *He is worried about the person who made the claim, that crime was the same. who rents an apartment to the person who made the claim, that crime was the same. over the proposal to make more homeless, drug-addicted, or drug mentally ill and drug etc. who is worried about the person who made the claim, that crime was the same. who rents an apartment to the person who made the claim, that crime was the same.*  
*Residents are becoming increasingly concerned and frightened.*  
There was a question regarding what is happening with Tent City:

- Mayor Helps said she had no update
- BC Housing is waiting for a court decision

#### School:

Stuart Hall Stuart noted that It was Spring Break and there was nothing to report.

#### Church:

Nothing to report.

#### Community Association:

Reiterated that they are a resource. If there are questions that are not being answered they can try and find answers

Neighbours are concerned that Mount Edwards is  
no-holds-barred access to the neighbourhood.

City:

We are ticked because it was put into our community  
Nothing to report. <sup>hypocrites</sup> and by <sup>people</sup> who go back to their homes <sup>that in</sup>

neighbourhoods that don't have the <sup>negative</sup> effects that they have created in  
Neighbours: one neighbourhood.

(+) A neighbour new to these meetings expressed that all want what is best for the  
neighbourhood; all want solutions for the homeless. That said they are interested in the  
process for a year from now <sup>since the future proposal is far different</sup> regarding the current situation who cares. They want  
leadership and discussion on the bigger issues; they are ticked off and frustrated.

(+) (u) ~~Donna Stinson~~ reiterated that the purpose of these meetings is to provide a venue to bring  
forward concerns specific to the operation of Mount Edwards in its current form (to provide  
transitional housing and support to 38 individuals for the next year).

(J) Cool Aid and BC Housing are committed to consulting with the community (school, church,  
neighbours) on what the long term of vision for Mount Edwards will be and to take what they  
learn from that process forward into a public rezoning process. We had advised that this long

term process will not likely begin before May as we want to let the current operation settle in;

and would prefer that the Tent City be resolved first. If Tent City carries on, we may have to  
revisit that. These meetings will not be the forum for that long term process.

Chris S. acknowledged that this has been a consistent message from Cool Aid. <sup>BC Housing and the City</sup> ~~have repeatedly explained the rezoning~~  
spoke extensively that a rezoning process would take place. <sup>to go through a rezoning</sup>

A Mount Edwards resident shared that nobody wants the homeless; and that it is hard to find  
solutions that everyone can agree on.

**Next Meeting:**

Tuesday, April 5<sup>th</sup> 7:00 pm, Chapter Room, Cathedral



Christopher Schmidt [REDACTED]

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## Amendments for the March 22, 2016 Mount Edwards Court Neighbourhood Meeting Minutes

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Christopher Schmidt [REDACTED]

Mon, Apr 4, 2016 at 1:24 PM

To: Kathy Stinson [REDACTED]

Cc: Don McTavish [REDACTED], John Sherratt [REDACTED]

Hello Ms. Stinson,

This proposed amendment is to bring to the table some items and detail that were missing from your Mount Edwards Court Neighbourhood Meeting Draft Minutes for March 22, 2016. Please append it or incorporate its changes and additions into your draft minutes document for that meeting.

As requested, these changes are substantive; in other words, changes are proposed only where necessary in order to capture better the original meaning of the dialogue.

As well, in an attempt to minimize additions, only a few items have been added.

It would be nice if my amendments were formatted in the same manner as your portion of the minutes or at least in the manner in which I have submitted it: specifically, please do not use the question-mark bullets.

If you disagree with any specific items that I have proposed, please let me know this afternoon or by end-of-day today, so that I can reply early tomorrow before I start work. It is good to see the new effort that Cool Aid is putting into capturing the main items of the meeting and it is my hope that, if things continue in this manner, my part in this become unnecessary.

Sincerely Yours,  
Christopher Schmidt



2016.04.04 Amendments for March 22, 2016 MECNM Draft Minutes.pdf  
295K



Christopher Schmidt <christopher.lee.schmidt@gmail.com>

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## Amendments for the March 22, 2016 Mount Edwards Court Neighbourhood Meeting Minutes

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Kathy Stinson

Mon, Apr 4, 2016 at 6:07 PM

To: Christopher Schmidt

Cc: Don McTavish

John Sherratt

, "Hall, Stuart

Mr. Schmidt, please see my notes below. Also please note that I have copied Stuart on this as he is co-chair of this committee.

Per my notes below I have made some changes to the minutes. If you like I can attach your document when I send out the amended minutes so that folks on the mailing list are aware of all that you requested changed. Thanks, Kathy

Kathy Stinson CPA, CMA

Chief Executive Officer

**From:** Christopher Schmidt [mailto: ]

**Sent:** Monday, April 04, 2016 1:24 PM

**To:** Kathy Stinson

**Cc:** Don McTavish; John Sherratt

**Subject:** Amendments for the March 22, 2016 Mount Edwards Court Neighbourhood Meeting Minutes

Hello Ms. Stinson,

This proposed amendment is to bring to the table some items and detail that were missing from your Mount Edwards Court Neighbourhood Meeting Draft Minutes for March 22, 2016. Please append it or incorporate its changes and additions into your draft minutes document for that meeting.

As requested, these changes are substantive; in other words, changes are proposed only where necessary in order to capture better the original meaning of the dialogue. I disagree.

As well, in an attempt to minimize additions, only a few items have been added. Again I disagree.

*Kathy Stinson added these statements to my email*

It would be nice if my amendments were formatted in the same manner as your portion of the minutes or at least in the manner in which I have submitted it: specifically, please do not use the question-mark bullets. In the future it would be easier if you provided a Word document.

If you disagree with any specific items that I have proposed, please let me know this afternoon or by end-of-day today, so that I can reply early tomorrow before I start work. It is good to see the new effort that Cool Aid is putting into capturing the main items of the meeting and it is my hope that, if things continue in this manner, my part in this become unnecessary. I will of course make the changes to the areas where I have referenced you directly. I have not included all of your other suggested changes as I don't believe that they add anything substantive to the record – which we have clearly stated is not verbatim.

Sincerely Yours,  
Christopher Schmidt

*Kathy Stinson added these  
statements to my email.*



**Mount Edwards Court Neighbourhood Meeting Draft Minutes March 22 amend per CS.pdf**  
146K

April 4

Mount Edwards Court Neighbourhood Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, March 22, 2016  
Gymnasium, Cathedral School Victoria, BC

Don McTavish, Cool Aid introduced himself as co-chair

An agenda was circulated and accepted with the following change:

- Move the Good Neighbour Agreement item first

Everyone in the circle introduced themselves and their connection

- Mayor Helps and Chris Coleman, City Councilor were in attendance
- Reps from the Fairfield Gonzales Community Assoc. in attendance were Wayne Hollohan, Land Use committee
- Heidi Hartman and Roger Butcher from BC Housing were in attendance
- Teri Healey from VicPD was present
- Kathy Stinson, Cool Aid agreed to take Minutes: will capture general themes and any action or follow-up items; opinions will not be recorded.

An attendance sheet was circulated – minutes will be emailed and posted on the Cool Aid web-site; go to: [www.CoolAid.org/mtedwards](http://www.CoolAid.org/mtedwards)

Minutes from the meeting of March 15<sup>th</sup> were distributed for acceptance at the next meeting.

**NOTE:** Frustration was expressed at the outset and throughout the meeting regarding the acoustics in the room; it was challenging to hear and speakers were encouraged to stand and speak loudly.

### Good Neighbour Agreement

Speak Up Fairfield members polled the room to determine that 15 out of 27 present do not want to be Mount Edwards neighbours. They see no differentiation between Mount Edwards and Tent City. They see no use for a Good Neighbour agreement.

Cool Aid noted that regardless of this perspective, we will be providing housing and support to 38 people in the Mount Edwards facility for the next year. Cool Aid wants to ensure that we do the best job we can with the least impact on the neighbourhood. We will work with the neighbours who want to work us, if the larger group is not interested in participating in a Good Neighbour Agreement that is fine.

Cool Aid stated that it could reference in the Good Neighbour Agreement that there are neighbours in Fairfield who do not endorse it.

Mount Edwards residents will be included in the process.

NO  
CHANGE  
COOL AID  
DENIED  
AMENDMENT  
OF THIS ITEM  
  
COOL AID  
ACCEPTED  
THIS  
AMENDMENT

Speak Up Fairfield elaborated that another objective of its not consenting to the Good Neighbour Agreement is to ensure that these meetings continue so that there is a forum for all neighbours to attend to address their concerns about the operations at Mount Edwards Court.

Cool Aid  
ACCEPTED  
THIS ITEM  
AMENDMENT

Individuals interested in participating in a small working group should contact Kathy Stinson via email: [kstinson@CoolAid.org](mailto:kstinson@CoolAid.org). We will try and organize a meeting for the week of March 28<sup>th</sup>.

Our next large group meeting will be two weeks out (April 5<sup>th</sup>) to allow the working group an opportunity to meet.

#### **Action Items from the previous meeting:**

1. Chris Coleman to provide an update on lighting:
  - Public Works are working with Parks on a 4 part pilot project with respect to LED lighting in the precinct:
    - a) Along Rockland between Quadra & Vancouver;
    - b) Along Quadra, facing Pioneer Park;
    - c) Along Meares, between Quadra & Vancouver; &
    - d) Along Vancouver between Meares & Rockland (ie Facing the frontage of MEC)
  - The reason these are seen as distinct aspects of the precinct plan is that each component will have different types of LED lights (giving a variety of "lumens", or shades of light) to the area). In this way the project may be adjusted as the Impacts of the options are assessed.
  - The installation is hoped to occur in the next couple of weeks.
2. Cool Aid to work with BC Housing on the feasibility of hiring security guards to augment the Community Liaison position:
  - Cool Aid is in the process of getting quotes; John mentioned for the hours of 7 am to 11 pm; but clarified that he will be seeking quotes from 7 am to midnight.
  - Neighbours are asking for 24 hour security; Lisa Helps suggested 24 hours might be best while Tent City is in place.
  - Cool Aid will get quotes for all scenarios.
  - Chris S added that in a previous meeting a desire was expressed for 2 people in front of Mount Edwards and 2 people patrolling the neighbourhood.
3. Cool Aid to work with staff to improve presence of Community Liaison around Mount Edwards:
  - John advised that he had spoken with all staff regarding the importance of this issue
  - Neighbours asserted that it is not happening
  - Peter (Community Liaison staff) provided a brief overview of what he does:
    - 6:30am-Arrive, check in with the night shift about any updates from the community
    - 7:00am- Neighborhood clean-up before school. I walk around the school ground and the church grounds, cleaning up any garbage. I carry "safe disposal equipment" in case I find any harm reduction gear (to date, no needles have been found).



- 7:30-8:45am- Doing rounds on our block and the school block talking with parents and neighbors. Making sure that kids and parents are comfortable and safe while arriving.
- 9:00am-3:00pm- Walking around our building, engaging with community and clients about the day's activities. Doing occasional walks around the church, school and Pioneer Square. Helping clients with neighborhood "chores" like "Clean and Safe" graffiti removal, gardening etc.
- 3pm-4:30pm- Doing rounds on our block and the school block talking with parents and neighbors. Making sure that kids and parents are comfortable and safe while leaving.
- A neighbour recounted an incident that she had observed outside Mount Edwards when the Community Liaison did not appear to be present – 2 residents waiting for a cab got into an argument with cab driver – they were trying to bring coffee with them; there was swearing and yelling and the coffee was thrown – almost hitting the neighbour
- Another neighbour reinforced the idea that the Community Liaison should stay closer to the building – just patrolling the L shape around Mount Edwards
- Some neighbours shared their feeling that they were a 'community under siege'; that the flavour has changed
- ~~Chris S recounted an incident from Sunday – a man in the neighbourhood had seemed to be following him and had stopped outside his house; was staring and appeared to be angry; Chris took pictures, called police and called Mount Edwards; the man was not a resident of Mount Edwards; Chris watched him 40 minutes later walk up Cook Street to Meares and enter a parkade.~~
- Chris S recounted an incident from Sunday – a man passed him as he walked on the sidewalk in front of his house then the man stopped to stare angrily at Chris as he entered his home. He continued to stand facing Chris' house until Chris returned outside to ask him if he could help him – the man responded with a nonsense accusation. Chris took pictures, called the police, and called Mount Edwards. Cool Aid advised that the man was not a resident of Mount Edwards. While out for a walk later, Chris and his wife saw the same man entering a parkade near Meares and Vancouver.
- Another neighbor questioned why the Community Liaison staff would be going to tent city; perhaps the staff is trying to do too much; he is confused about what is trying to be accomplished – and is not seeing staff out in the evening; suggests this is a 'bandaid' solution.
- Someone asked the question 'has there been a dramatic rise in problems since Mount Edwards opened - response of many neighbours was yes; the term 'instant ghetto' was used
- John S acknowledged that it is Cool Aid's responsibility to ensure that our staff are present outside in the manner we have committed to.

COOL AID  
ACCEPTED  
THIS  
AMENDMENT  
ITEM

NO CHANGE  
AMENDMENT  
DENIED  
BY COOL AID

**ACTION: Cool Aid will continue to follow-up with BC Housing regarding security; Cool Aid will continue to tighten up the Community Liaison presence.**

4. SpeakUp Fairfield neighbours to provide a transcript of meeting to be included with minutes:

- No transcript will be provided

5. Cool Aid to ask VicPD to attend in order to provide updates on any neighbourhood calls:

- VicPd will ensure a representative attends with information

NO  
CHANGE  
- DENIED

## Updates

### VicPD:

- Teri is familiar with the neighbourhood and its issues
- She looked at calls for service in the last 2 weeks in the immediate area of Mount Edwards from Meares to Burdett and Vancouver to Quadra
- There were 2 calls for service:
  - a male causing a disturbance
  - a residential B&E on Meares
- Teri described how to access crime reports on the VicPD web-site – zero in on an area; details are provided (**NOTE:** the system has been experiencing problems and is not currently working)

COOL AID  
- DENIED!  
AMENDMENT OF THIS ITEM

Neighbours expressed skepticism at these numbers; suggested expanding the area being reported on.

Another neighbour suggested there was nothing left to steal.

Teri acknowledged that underreporting is an issue.

A neighbor noted that there had been a B&E in his backyard (bottom of Quadra and Collinson) and that a battery charger had been stolen; he had reported it.

It was suggested that rather than take up too much time at the meeting that VicPD provide a table overview of stats in advance.

Neighbours reported that there was increased garbage including sharps and increased graffiti everywhere.

A neighbor questioned how patrol cars are assigned as she noted there seemed to be way more in the area than before; if based on needs as evidenced by calls, it doesn't add up with the stats as presented.

~~Chris S. read from a letter provided by a nearby apartment building manager (1.5 blocks from Mount Edwards) noting extreme concern with increased traffic and a near fatal overdose; 2 tenants are considering moving; their historically quiet residential neighbourhood has been irrevocably changed.~~

Chris S. read from a letter provided by a nearby apartment building owner who owns the apartment rented to the person who made the February 29, 2016 claim that crime has not changed. The building is 1.5 blocks from Mount Edwards and the owner noted extreme concern about increased homeless and drug-addicted traffic and a near-fatal overdose in his parking lot. He reported that residents are becoming increasingly concerned and frightened and that 2 tenants are considering moving due to the problems and the planned increase in housing for those in our neighbourhood, and that this historically quiet residential neighbourhood has been irrevocably changed.

COOL AID  
ACCEPTED  
AMENDMENT  
OF THIS  
ITEM

There was a question regarding what is happening with Tent City:

- Mayor Helps said she had no update
- BC Housing is waiting for a court decision

School:

Stuart Hall Stuart noted that it was Spring Break and there was nothing to report.

Church:

Nothing to report.

Community Association:

Reiterated that they are a resource. If there are questions that are not being answered they can try and find answers.

City:

Nothing to report.

Neighbours:

A neighbour new to these meetings expressed that all want what is best for the neighbourhood; all want solutions for the homeless. That said they are interested in the process for a year from now – regarding the current situation – who cares. They want leadership and discussion on the bigger issues; they are ticked off and frustrated.

COOL AID  
DENIED  
AMENDMENT

Kathy Stinson reiterated that the purpose of these meetings is to provide a venue to bring forward concerns specific to the operation of Mount Edwards in its current form (to provide transitional housing and support to 38 individuals for the next year).

COOL AID  
DENIED  
AMENDMENT  
OF THIS ITEM

Cool Aid and BC Housing are committed to consulting with the community (school, church, neighbours) on what the long term of vision for Mount Edwards will be; and to take what they learn from that process forward into a public rezoning process. We had advised that this long

term process will not likely begin before May as we want to let the current operation settle in; and would prefer that the Tent City be resolved first. If Tent City carries on, we may have to revisit that. These meetings **will not** be the forum for that long term process.

~~Chris S. acknowledged that this has been a consistent message from Cool Aid.~~

Chris S. acknowledged that Cool Aid, BC Housing, and the City have spoken extensively that a rezoning process would take place.

A Mount Edwards resident shared that nobody wants the homeless; and that it is hard to find solutions that everyone can agree on.

COOL AID  
ACCEPTED  
THIS  
AMENDMENT  
ITEM

**Next Meeting:**

Tuesday, April 5<sup>th</sup> 7:00 pm, Chapter Room, Cathedral



Christopher Schmidt &lt;christopher.lee.schmidt@gmail.com&gt;

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**Amendments for the March 22, 2016 Mount Edwards Court Neighbourhood Meeting Minutes**

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Christopher Schmidt [REDACTED]

Tue, Apr 5, 2016 at 2:06 PM

To: Kathy Stinson [REDACTED]

Cc: Don McTavish [REDACTED] John Sherratt [REDACTED] "Hall, Stuart

Hello Ms. Stinson,

When I provided these amendments, I avoided commenting on your items. I don't comment that your items misrepresent what was said. For instance, you wrote that "the term 'instant ghetto' was used" when that term was not even used, and you wrote that officer Teri was familiar with the neighbourhood when Teri never said that.

You criticize as nitpicky a point of clarification that is logically significant: your misuse of the logical operator/coordinating conjunction "or" could be misused to deny either part of what the community association said. At my insistence, you did include my fix in my amendments, but you kept your original misrepresentative paraphrasing in your own March 15, 2016 minutes.

It seems to come down to our disagreeing on the meaning of the word "substantive." I interpret substantive to mean firmly based in reality. Your paraphrased items omit and include information in a manner which could read favourably for Cool Aid in the future.

Furthermore, when Cool Aid was justifying the alternating meeting times, it promised the neighbourhood an information transfer function. But after the dozens of hours per meeting that I and others spend documenting and distilling the dialogue and the more hours spent presenting it to you, you reject most of it to present your very special perspective in your minutes—which will be the document referenced by other parties in the future.

That is why my amendment belongs at the end of your minutes document for March 22, 2016 and onward if it be necessary.

Anyway, you've been informed of my opinion.

Sincerely,  
Christopher Schmidt

On Apr 5, 2016, at 9:07 AM, Kathy Stinson [REDACTED] wrote:

Mr. Schmidt, I am not going to append your letter to the minutes per the reasons noted; I will send it as a separate document.

Kathy Stinson CPA, CMA  
Chief Executive Officer

&lt;image001.jpg&gt;

Victoria Cool Aid Society

[REDACTED]  
102-749 Pandora Avenue

4/8/2017

Gmail - Amendments for the March 22, 2016 Mount Edwards Court Neighbourhood Meeting Minutes

Victoria, BC V8W 1N9

[www.CoolAid.org](http://www.CoolAid.org)

*Together we will end homelessness.*

Victoria Cool Aid Society acknowledges the Lekwungen and W̱SÁNEĆ peoples of the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations, on whose traditional territories we build homes, lives, and community. HÍSW̱ḴE.

**From:** Christopher Schmidt [mailto:christopher.lee.schmidt@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, April 04, 2016 10:25 PM  
**To:** Kathy Stinson  
**Cc:** Don McTavish; John Sherratt; Hall, Stuart (head@cathedralschool.ca)  
**Subject:** Re: Amendments for the March 22, 2016 Mount Edwards Court Neighbourhood Meeting Minutes

Hello Ms. Stinson,

Thank you for making the changes that you made; however, it is apparent that we disagree on a few matters and, therefore, I would appreciate your appending my amendment document to the minutes document as before so that people who look at the minutes document can be aware of what I requested.

Sincerely,

Christopher Schmidt

On Mon, Apr 4, 2016 at 6:07 PM, Kathy Stinson <kstinson@coolaid.org> wrote:

Mr. Schmidt, please see my notes below. Also please note that I have copied Stuart on this as he is co-chair of this committee.

Per my notes below I have made some changes to the minutes. If you like I can attach your document when I send out the amended minutes so that folks on the mailing list are aware of all that you requested changed. Thanks, Kathy

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Chief Executive Officer

4/8/2017

Gmail - Amendments for the March 22, 2016 Mount Edwards Court Neighbourhood Meeting Minutes

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**Sent:** Monday, April 04, 2016 1:24 PM  
**To:** Kathy Stinson  
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**Subject:** Amendments for the March 22, 2016 Mount Edwards Court Neighbourhood Meeting Minutes

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As requested, these changes are substantive; in other words, changes are proposed only where necessary in order to capture better the original meaning of the dialogue. I disagree.

As well, in an attempt to minimize additions, only a few items have been added. Again I disagree.

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Sincerely Yours,  
Christopher Schmidt

*Added by Kathy Stinson to  
my original email.*

**Mount Edwards Court Neighbourhood Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, March 22, 2016**  
**Gymnasium, Cathedral School Victoria, BC**

Don McTavish, Cool Aid introduced himself as co-chair

An agenda was circulated and accepted with the following change:

- Move the Good Neighbour Agreement item first

Everyone in the circle introduced themselves and their connection

- Mayor Helps and Chris Coleman, City Councilor were in attendance
- Reps from the Fairfield Gonzales Community Assoc. in attendance were Wayne Hollohan, Land Use committee
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- Teri Healey from VicPD was present
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Minutes from the meeting of March 15<sup>th</sup> were distributed for acceptance at the next meeting.

**NOTE:** Frustration was expressed at the outset and throughout the meeting regarding the acoustics in the room; it was challenging to hear and speakers were encouraged to stand and speak loudly.

### **Good Neighbour Agreement**

Speak Up Fairfield members polled the room to determine that 15 out of 27 present do not want to be Mount Edwards neighbours. They see no differentiation between Mount Edwards and Tent City. They see no use for a Good Neighbour agreement.

Cool Aid noted that regardless of this perspective, we will be providing housing and support to 38 people in the Mount Edwards facility for the next year. Cool Aid wants to ensure that we do the best job we can with the least impact on the neighbourhood. We will work with the neighbours who want to work us, if the larger group is not interested in participating in a Good Neighbour Agreement that is fine.

Cool Aid stated that it could reference in the Good Neighbour Agreement that there are neighbours in Fairfield who do not endorse it.

Mount Edwards residents will be included in the process.



Speak Up Fairfield elaborated that another objective of its not consenting to the Good Neighbour Agreement is to ensure that these meetings continue so that there is a forum for all neighbours to attend to address their concerns about the operations at Mount Edwards Court.

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    - b) Along Quadra, facing Pioneer Park;
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- Chris S recounted an incident from Sunday – a man passed him as he walked on the sidewalk in front of his house then the man stopped to stare angrily at Chris as he entered his home. He continued to stand facing Chris' house until Chris returned outside to ask him if he could help him—the man responded with a nonsense accusation. Chris took pictures, called the police, and called Mount Edwards. Cool Aid advised that the man was not a resident of Mount Edwards. While out for a walk later, Chris and his wife saw the same man entering a parkade near Meares and Vancouver.
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**ACTION: Cool Aid will continue to follow-up with BC Housing regarding security; Cool Aid will continue to tighten up the Community Liaison presence.**

4. SpeakUp Fairfield neighbours to provide a transcript of meeting to be included with minutes:
  - No transcript will be provided
5. Cool Aid to ask VicPD to attend in order to provide updates on any neighbourhood calls:
  - VicPd will ensure a representative attends with information

## Updates

VicPD:

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- She looked at calls for service in the last 2 weeks in the immediate area of Mount Edwards from Meares to Burdett and Vancouver to Quadra
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Teri acknowledged that underreporting is an issue.

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Cool Aid and BC Housing are committed to consulting with the community (school, church, neighbours) on what the long term of vision for Mount Edwards will be; and to take what they learn from that process forward into a public rezoning process. We had advised that this long term process will not likely begin before May as we want to let the current operation settle in; and would prefer that the Tent City be resolved first. If Tent City carries on, we may have to revisit that. These meetings **will not** be the forum for that long term process.

Chris S. acknowledged that Cool Aid, BC Housing, and the City have spoken extensively that a rezoning process would take place.

A Mount Edwards resident shared that nobody wants the homeless; and that it is hard to find solutions that everyone can agree on.

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday, April 5<sup>th</sup> 7:00 pm, Chapter Room, Cathedral

At the meeting of April 5th Chris Schmidt asked that his amendments to the minutes of March 22<sup>nd</sup> be appended to the document. A number of his suggested changes have been incorporated into the body of the minutes; ones not incorporated above are included below.

**Under Good Neighbour Agreement:**

Cool Aid recognized that Speak Up Fairfield would rather Cool Aid not be in the neighbourhood and that Speak Up Fairfield does not want to sign the Good Neighbour Agreement, but Cool Aid dismissed Speak Up Fairfield's position on the basis that it did not come from everybody; however, it did welcome Speak Up Fairfield to continue attending and making that point.

You wrote:

Someone asked the question 'has there been a dramatic rise in problems since Mount Edwards opened – response of many neighbours was yes; the term 'instant ghetto' was used.

Please change it to:

A resident of Mount Edwards asked whether there has been a rise in problems since Mount Edwards started. The response of many neighbours was yes. One neighbour commented that "on February 23rd, the neighbourhood turned into the vibe of a ghetto. Instantly."

After the above, please add the item:

A neighbour commented that new faces are scouting backyards and properties and that people have been in his yard but they have not stolen but he noted that there is nothing left in his yard to steal. He noted that many of his neighbours on Meares have had their yards broken into since the opening of Mount Edwards.

Under the heading ACTION: Please change item 4.

What you wrote:

4. StandUp Fairfield neighbours to provide a transcript of the meeting to be included with minutes:

- No transcript will be provided.

Please change it to:

4. There was an offer by a Speak Up Fairfield member to provide a transcript of the meeting to be included with minutes:

- Despite this offer, a majority of Speak Up Fairfield voted against sharing the transcript so no transcript will be provided.

Under Updates:

Under VicPD:

What you wrote:

- Teri is familiar with the neighbourhood and its issues.

Please change it to:

- Teri is familiar with some of the issues of the area.

And for the sixth item after the VicPD items:

What you wrote:

Neighbours reported that there was increased garbage including sharps and increased graffiti everywhere.

Please change it to:

Neighbours reported that there was increased garbage including sharps and increased graffiti everywhere. A neighbour reported junk being left in backyard and her garbage can being filled.

And under Neighbours:

What you wrote:

A neighbour new to these meetings expressed that all want what is best for the neighbourhood; all want solutions for the homeless. That said they are interested in the process for a year from now—regarding the current situation—who cares. They want leadership and discussion on the bigger issues; they are ticked off and frustrated.

Please change it to:

A neighbour new to these meetings expressed that all want what is best for the neighbourhood and that all agree that there has to be some sort of solution for the homeless. He disagrees with the process and the future of Mount Edwards. He is less concerned about the present situation than he is about the process for what happens in a year from now since the future proposal is far different. He wants leadership and discussion on what a year from now will look like. Neighbours are concerned that Mount Edwards is no-holds-barred access to the neighbourhood and we are frustrated because it was put into our community by people who claim to want what is best for us but who go back to their homes in their neighbourhoods that don't have the same newly-created problems that we now experience.



Christopher Schmidt [REDACTED]

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**Follow-up: Updated March 22, 2016 Amendment Incorporating Objections  
Raised at April 5, 2016 Meeting**

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Kathy Stinson [REDACTED]

Mon, Apr 11, 2016 at 5:07 PM

To: Christopher Schmidt [REDACTED]

Cc: Don McTavish [REDACTED] John Sherratt [REDACTED]

Mr. Schmidt:

It was agreed at the meeting to attach the amendments provided by you to the minutes. It was not agreed to accept a revised amendment document after the fact. Attached is what the accepted minutes look like with your amendments included.

Kathy Stinson CPA, CMA

Chief Executive Officer



Victoria Cool Aid Society

[REDACTED]  
102-749 Pandora Avenue

Victoria, BC V8W 1N9

[www.CoolAid.org](http://www.CoolAid.org)

*Together we will end homelessness.*

Victoria Cool Aid Society acknowledges the Lekwungen and W̱SÁNEĆ peoples of the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations, on whose traditional territories we build homes, lives, and community. HÍSW̱ḴE.

**From:** Christopher Schmidt [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, April 11, 2016 10:26 AM  
**To:** Kathy Stinson  
**Cc:** Don McTavish; John Sherratt  
**Subject:** Follow-up: Updated March 22, 2016 Amendment Incorporating Objections Raised at April 5, 2016 Meeting

Hello Miss Stinson,

To follow up, at the April 5, 2016 Mount Edwards Court neighborhood liaison meeting, when I asked you whether you had decided to append my amendments within the minutes document for the March 22, 2016 neighborhood liaison meeting, you said that you were OK with that.

Appended is an updated amendment document for the March 22, 2016 meeting that takes my name out of the minutes items and that incorporates the April 5, 2016 concerns that postponed the finalization of your March 22, 2016 minute document. Updates are identified by green-coloured font.

The first change is to replace my name (Chris S) with "A neighbour" for when I was reporting a personal incident as a neighbor, like so:

A neighbour recounted an incident from Sunday – a man passed him as the neighbour walked on the sidewalk in front of his house then the man stopped to stare angrily at the neighbour as he entered his home. He continued to stand facing the neighbour's house until the neighbour returned outside to ask him if he could help him—the man responded with a nonsense accusation. The neighbour took pictures, called the police, and called Mount Edwards. Cool Aid denied the man's being a resident of Mount Edwards. While out for a walk later, the neighbour and his wife saw the same man entering a parkade near Meares and Vancouver.

The second change is to change its second instance (Chris S) to "Speak Up Fairfield" for when I was sharing an email in that capacity:

A member of Speak Up Fairfield read from a letter provided by a nearby apartment building owner who owns the apartment rented to the person who made the February 29, 2016 claim that crime has not changed. The building is 1.5 blocks from Mount Edwards and the owner noted extreme concern about increased homeless and drug-addicted traffic and a near-fatal overdose in his parking lot. He reported that residents are becoming increasingly concerned and frightened and that 2 tenants are considering moving due to the problems and the planned increase in housing for those in our neighbourhood, and that this historically quiet residential neighbourhood has been irrevocably changed.

As well, during the meeting, a neighbour stated that he felt that the vote count was incorrect. He and I have discussed his concern about the vote count of the neighbours who rejected the Good Neighbor Agreement on March 22, 2016 as reported in the minutes for that meeting. He felt that the 15/27 vote should have been higher since he thinks that more neighbours voted to reject the Good Neighbor Agreement.



He and I agreed that the numbers fail to reflect the strong extent to which the neighbourhood rejects the good neighbor agreement but, as you said at the last meeting, no objections were raised at the time.

The other concerns that postponed the approval of the March 22, 2016 minutes were two other items raised by another neighbour, which could be summarized accurately as:

- A request was made that the meeting be held in a room where people can hear each other.
- A request was made that the police provide statistical information in advance of the liaison meetings.

I've checked the transcript for March 22, 2016 and these requests were made; consequently, they should be added. You did state in your minutes that frustrations were expressed about the acoustics in the room but the amendment raised is distinctly about a request.

As stated at the beginning, attached is an updated amendments document for March 22, 2016 that identifies the above changes using green-coloured font. In summary, it takes my name out of the minutes items and it addresses the concerns that postponed the acceptance of the March 22, 2016 minutes document at the April 5, 2016 meeting. On these bases, please append this updated version to the minutes for March 22, 2016. Once you do so and incorporate its changes, your minutes document will be updated.

Hopefully, no further concerns are raised so that the minutes up to March 22, 2016 can be finalized. I hope that this helps.

Sincerely Yours,

Christopher Schmidt



**Mount Edwards Court Neighbourhood Meeting Draft Minutes March 22 FINAL.pdf**

88K

**Mount Edwards Court Neighbourhood Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, March 22, 2016**  
**Gymnasium, Cathedral School Victoria, BC**

Don McTavish, Cool Aid introduced himself as co-chair

An agenda was circulated and accepted with the following change:

- Move the Good Neighbour Agreement item first

Everyone in the circle introduced themselves and their connection

- Mayor Helps and Chris Coleman, City Councilor were in attendance
- Reps from the Fairfield Gonzales Community Assoc. in attendance were Wayne Hollohan, Land Use committee
- Heidi Hartman and Roger Butcher from BC Housing were in attendance
- Teri Healey from VicPD was present
- Kathy Stinson, Cool Aid agreed to take Minutes: will capture general themes and any action or follow-up items; opinions will not be recorded.

An attendance sheet was circulated – minutes will be emailed and posted on the Cool Aid web-site; go to: [www.CoolAid.org/mtedwards](http://www.CoolAid.org/mtedwards)

Minutes from the meeting of March 15<sup>th</sup> were distributed for acceptance at the next meeting.

**NOTE:** Frustration was expressed at the outset and throughout the meeting regarding the acoustics in the room; it was challenging to hear and speakers were encouraged to stand and speak loudly.

### **Good Neighbour Agreement**

Speak Up Fairfield members polled the room to determine that 15 out of 27 present do not want to be Mount Edwards neighbours. They see no differentiation between Mount Edwards and Tent City. They see no use for a Good Neighbour agreement.

Cool Aid noted that regardless of this perspective, we will be providing housing and support to 38 people in the Mount Edwards facility for the next year. Cool Aid wants to ensure that we do the best job we can with the least impact on the neighbourhood. We will work with the neighbours who want to work us, if the larger group is not interested in participating in a Good Neighbour Agreement that is fine.

Cool Aid stated that it could reference in the Good Neighbour Agreement that there are neighbours in Fairfield who do not endorse it.

Mount Edwards residents will be included in the process.

Speak Up Fairfield elaborated that another objective of its not consenting to the Good Neighbour Agreement is to ensure that these meetings continue so that there is a forum for all neighbours to attend to address their concerns about the operations at Mount Edwards Court.

Individuals interested in participating in a small working group should contact Kathy Stinson via email: [kstinson@CoolAid.org](mailto:kstinson@CoolAid.org). We will try and organize a meeting for the week of March 28<sup>th</sup>.

Our next large group meeting will be two weeks out (April 5<sup>th</sup>) to allow the working group an opportunity to meet.

**Action Items from the previous meeting:**

1. Chris Coleman to provide an update on lighting:
  - Public Works are working with Parks on a 4 part pilot project with respect to LED lighting in the precinct:
    - a) Along Rockland between Quadra & Vancouver;
    - b) Along Quadra, facing Pioneer Park;
    - c) Along Meares, between Quadra & Vancouver; &
    - d) Along Vancouver between Meares & Rockland (ie Facing the frontage of MEC)
  - The reason these are seen as distinct aspects of the precinct plan is that each component will have different types of LED lights (giving a variety of "lumens", or shades of light) to the area). In this way the project may be adjusted as the impacts of the options are assessed.
  - The installation is hoped to occur in the next couple of weeks.
2. Cool Aid to work with BC Housing on the feasibility of hiring security guards to augment the Community Liaison position:
  - Cool Aid is in the process of getting quotes; John mentioned for the hours of 7 am to 11 pm; but clarified that he will be seeking quotes from 7 am to midnight.
  - Neighbours are asking for 24 hour security; Lisa Helps suggested 24 hours might be best while Tent City is in place.
  - Cool Aid will get quotes for all scenarios.
  - Chris S added that in a previous meeting a desire was expressed for 2 people in front of Mount Edwards and 2 people patrolling the neighbourhood.
3. Cool Aid to work with staff to improve presence of Community Liaison around Mount Edwards:
  - John advised that he had spoken with all staff regarding the importance of this issue
  - Neighbours asserted that it is not happening
  - Peter (Community Liaison staff) provided a brief overview of what he does:
    - 6:30am-Arrive, check in with the night shift about any updates from the community
    - 7:00am- Neighborhood clean-up before school. I walk around the school ground and the church grounds, cleaning up any garbage. I carry "safe disposal equipment" in case I find any harm reduction gear (to date, no needles have been found).
    - 7:30-8:45am- Doing rounds on our block and the school block talking with parents and neighbors. Making sure that kids and parents are comfortable and safe while arriving.
    - 9:00am-3:00pm- Walking around our building, engaging with community and clients about the day's activities. Doing occasional walks around the church, school and Pioneer Square. Helping clients with neighborhood "chores" like "Clean and Safe" graffiti removal, gardening etc.

- 3pm-4:30pm- Doing rounds on our block and the school block talking with parents and neighbors. Making sure that kids and parents are comfortable and safe while leaving.
- A neighbour recounted an incident that she had observed outside Mount Edwards when the Community Liaison did not appear to be present – 2 residents waiting for a cab got into an argument with cab driver – they were trying to bring coffee with them; there was swearing and yelling and the coffee was thrown – almost hitting the neighbour
- Another neighbour reinforced the idea that the Community Liaison should stay closer to the building – just patrolling the L shape around Mount Edwards
- Some neighbours shared their feeling that they were a 'community under siege'; that the flavour has changed
- A neighbour recounted an incident from Sunday – a man passed him as he walked on the sidewalk in front of his house then the man stopped to stare angrily at the neighbour as he entered his home. He continued to stand facing the neighbour's house until the neighbour returned outside to ask him if he could help him—the man responded with a nonsense accusation. The neighbor took pictures, called the police, and called Mount Edwards. Cool Aid advised that the man was not a resident of Mount Edwards. While out for a walk later, the neighbour and his wife saw the same man entering a parkade near Meares and Vancouver.
- Another neighbor questioned why the Community Liaison staff would be going to tent city; perhaps the staff is trying to do too much; he is confused about what is trying to be accomplished – and is not seeing staff out in the evening; suggests this is a 'bandaid' solution.
- Someone asked the question 'has there been a dramatic rise in problems since Mount Edwards opened - response of many neighbours was yes; the term 'instant ghetto' was used
- John S acknowledged that it is Cool Aid's responsibility to ensure that our staff are present outside in the manner we have committed to.

**ACTION: Cool Aid will continue to follow-up with BC Housing regarding security; Cool Aid will continue to tighten up the Community Liaison presence.**

4. SpeakUp Fairfield neighbours to provide a transcript of meeting to be included with minutes:
  - No transcript will be provided
5. Cool Aid to ask VicPD to attend in order to provide updates on any neighbourhood calls:
  - VicPd will ensure a representative attends with information

## Updates

### VicPD:

- Teri is familiar with the neighbourhood and its issues
- She looked at calls for service in the last 2 weeks in the immediate area of Mount Edwards from Meares to Burdett and Vancouver to Quadra
- There were 2 calls for service:
  - a male causing a disturbance

- o a residential B&E on Meares
- Teri described how to access crime reports on the VicPD web-site – zero in on an area; details are provided (**NOTE:** the system has been experiencing problems and is not currently working)

Neighbours expressed skepticism at these numbers; suggested expanding the area being reported on.

Another neighbour suggested there was nothing left to steal.

Teri acknowledged that underreporting is an issue.

A neighbor noted that there had been a B&E in his backyard (bottom of Quadra and Collinson) and that a battery charger had been stolen; he had reported it.

It was suggested that rather than take up too much time at the meeting that VicPD provide a table overview of stats in advance.

Neighbours reported that there was increased garbage including sharps and increased graffiti everywhere.

A neighbor questioned how patrol cars are assigned as she noted there seemed to be way more in the area than before; if based on needs as evidenced by calls, it doesn't add up with the stats as presented.

A member of SpeakUp Fairfield read from a letter provided by a nearby apartment building owner who owns the apartment rented to the person who made the February 29, 2016 claim that crime has not changed. The building is 1.5 blocks from Mount Edwards and the owner noted extreme concern about increased homeless and drug-addicted traffic and a near-fatal overdose in his parking lot. He reported that residents are becoming increasingly concerned and frightened and that 2 tenants are considering moving due to the problems and the planned increase in housing for those in our neighbourhood, and that this historically quiet residential neighbourhood has been irrevocably changed.

There was a question regarding what is happening with Tent City:

- Mayor Helps said she had no update
- BC Housing is waiting for a court decision

#### School:

Stuart Hall Stuart noted that it was Spring Break and there was nothing to report.

#### Church:

Nothing to report.

#### Community Association:

Reiterated that they are a resource. If there are questions that are not being answered they can try and find answers.

City:

Nothing to report.

Neighbours:

A neighbour new to these meetings expressed that all want what is best for the neighbourhood; all want solutions for the homeless. That said they are interested in the process for a year from now – regarding the current situation – who cares. They want leadership and discussion on the bigger issues; they are ticked off and frustrated.

Kathy Stinson reiterated that the purpose of these meetings is to provide a venue to bring forward concerns specific to the operation of Mount Edwards in its current form (to provide transitional housing and support to 38 individuals for the next year).

Cool Aid and BC Housing are committed to consulting with the community (school, church, neighbours) on what the long term of vision for Mount Edwards will be; and to take what they learn from that process forward into a public rezoning process. We had advised that this long term process will not likely begin before May as we want to let the current operation settle in; and would prefer that the Tent City be resolved first. If Tent City carries on, we may have to revisit that. These meetings **will not** be the forum for that long term process.

Chris S. acknowledged that Cool Aid, BC Housing, and the City have spoken extensively that a rezoning process would take place.

A Mount Edwards resident shared that nobody wants the homeless; and that it is hard to find solutions that everyone can agree on.

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday, April 5<sup>th</sup> 7:00 pm, Chapter Room, Cathedral

At the meeting of April 5th Chris Schmidt asked that his amendments to the minutes of March 22<sup>nd</sup> be appended to the document. A number of his suggested changes have been incorporated into the body of the minutes; ones not incorporated above are included below.

**Under Good Neighbour Agreement:**

Cool Aid recognized that Speak Up Fairfield would rather Cool Aid not be in the neighbourhood and that Speak Up Fairfield does not want to sign the Good Neighbour Agreement, but Cool Aid dismissed Speak Up Fairfield's position on the basis that it did not come from everybody; however, it did welcome Speak Up Fairfield to continue attending and making that point.

You wrote:

Someone asked the question 'has there been a dramatic rise in problems since Mount Edwards opened – response of many neighbours was yes; the term 'instant ghetto' was used.

Please change it to:

A resident of Mount Edwards asked whether there has been a rise in problems since Mount Edwards started. The response of many neighbours was yes. One neighbour commented that "on February 23rd, the neighbourhood turned into the vibe of a ghetto. Instantly."

After the above, please add the item:

A neighbour commented that new faces are scouting backyards and properties and that people have been in his yard but they have not stolen but he noted that there is nothing left in his yard to steal. He noted that many of his neighbours on Meares have had their yards broken into since the opening of Mount Edwards.

Under the heading ACTION: Please change item 4.

What you wrote:

4. StandUp Fairfield neighbours to provide a transcript of the meeting to be included with minutes:
- No transcript will be provided.

Please change it to:

4. There was an offer by a Speak Up Fairfield member to provide a transcript of the meeting to be included with minutes:
- Despite this offer, a majority of Speak Up Fairfield voted against sharing the transcript so no transcript will be provided.

Under Updates:

Under VicPD:

What you wrote:

- Teri is familiar with the neighbourhood and its issues.

Please change it to:

- Teri is familiar with some of the issues of the area.

And for the sixth item after the VicPD items:

What you wrote:

Neighbours reported that there was increased garbage including sharps and increased graffiti everywhere.

Please change it to:

Neighbours reported that there was increased garbage including sharps and increased graffiti everywhere. A neighbour reported junk being left in backyard and her garbage can being filled.

And under Neighbours:

What you wrote:

A neighbour new to these meetings expressed that all want what is best for the neighbourhood; all want solutions for the homeless. That said they are interested in the process for a year from now—regarding the current situation—who cares. They want leadership and discussion on the bigger issues; they are ticked off and frustrated.

Please change it to:

A neighbour new to these meetings expressed that all want what is best for the neighbourhood and that all agree that there has to be some sort of solution for the homeless. He disagrees with the process and the future of Mount Edwards. He is less concerned about the present situation than he is about the process for what happens in a year from now since the future proposal is far different. He wants leadership and discussion on what a year from now will look like. Neighbours are concerned that Mount Edwards is no-holds-barred access to the neighbourhood and we are frustrated because it was put into our community by people who claim to want what is best for us but who go back to their homes in their neighbourhoods that don't have the same newly-created problems that we now experience.





## Christ Church Cathedral School

912 Vancouver Street  
Victoria, British Columbia  
V8V 3V7

Telephone 250-383-5125  
Facsimile [REDACTED]  
cathedralschool@cathedralschool.ca

Stuart Hall  
Head of Christ Church Cathedral School  
912 Vancouver Street  
Victoria, BC, V8V 2V7

January 19, 2017

Mayor Lisa Helps  
c/o 1 Centennial Square  
Victoria, BC, V8W 1P6

Dear Lisa,

I appreciate the five minutes you provided me on December 8, 2016 to explain my ongoing concerns about the physical and emotional health and safety of our students, which has been placed in jeopardy by the Victoria Cool Aid Society's operation at Mount Edwards Court.

Any low barrier, supportive, transitional housing facility that is set up next to or in very close proximity to an elementary school threatens the safe and caring school environment that all school administrators are required by the School Act and the Independent School Act to provide. I ask City Council to take the necessary steps to properly ensure the safety of all children attending elementary schools in Victoria by making decisions on rezoning that clearly puts the safety of the city's most vulnerable population, its children, first and foremost above all other considerations.

Provincial legislation, it would appear, requires the active support and cooperation of municipal and regional governments. However, allowing the institutionalization of known drug use immediately next to an elementary school - not only for our school in this instance, but for any school in BC, makes it very difficult to provide a safe and caring learning environment, as required by provincial legislation. There are already policies in place to ensure a buffer zone between purveyors of alcohol and cannabis and schools. We believe the same basic logic should apply to facilities whose purpose is to provide basic intervention to the chronically ill who are addicted to illegal and dangerous drugs.

There will be an application for rezoning that is intended to bring Mount Edwards Court into conformity with Victoria's by-laws. We certainly support Social Housing use for this property - BUT not low barrier/supportive housing that institutionalizes illegal drug use. Therefore, I am asking you to keep the safety of the children foremost in your minds when considering this upcoming application and further to protect the safety of not only our students, but all students in Victoria from the unintentional consequences of allowing the institutionalized care of drug addicts immediately adjacent to an elementary school. Also, I respectfully ask that this application, once received, is handled as quickly as possible as we are entering enrollment season and a second school year with low enrollment could have serious long-term consequences for our school (please see the appendix on the following page).

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Stuart Hall; Head of School  
cc: The Mayor and all Councillors

Head of School: Stuart Hall, B.ed. M.A.

[www.cathedralschool.ca](http://www.cathedralschool.ca)

MAYOR'S OFFICE

JAN 19 2017

VICTORIA, B.C.

## Appendix

Below you will find details about Christ Church Cathedral School and the ongoing impact of the low barrier, supportive transitional housing operation, located at 1001 Vancouver St, adjacent to our particular school.

### Who we are:

- Christ Church Cathedral School is a registered charity and has been serving the public good for 26 years as a not-for-profit independent school located on the periphery of downtown Victoria.
- We are an inclusive school and cherish our diversity. Our students exhibit a very wide range of academic potential. Their families come from many different religious backgrounds and some do not align with any religion. Our families cover a wide range on the socio-economic spectrum.
- In total we employ 44 people and serve 161 families while meeting the needs of 196 children in our main school and our childcare facility combined.
- There is a large demand in the city for summer programming, afterschool programming and daycare.
  - Our summer programming and our after school programming both serve at least 50 children and as many as 100 daily.
  - We have 43 full time daycare spaces and are open 12 months of the year.
  - We serve many families who live in the neighbourhood or work in the downtown core.
  - All our programming is open to anyone in the community, whether they attend our school or not, whether they align themselves with any religion or not.
- We support many social initiatives both locally and globally including food banks, clothing drives, foster children, emergency disaster relief, orphanages, and development projects. The Anglican Diocese of BC has several affiliated societies that provide affordable social housing in Greater Victoria.

### Our concern:

- We do not support the institutionalization of known drug use immediately next to an elementary school. Not only for our school, but for any school in BC. There are already policies in place to ensure a buffer zone between purveyors of alcohol and cannabis and schools. We believe the same logic should apply to the institutionalized use or treatment of illegal drug use.
- The emergency response to Tent City was to open Mount Edwards Court without rezoning (along with other facilities in Victoria). Mount Edwards Court is only 20 meters from our school and has brought with it an increase in the number of incidents of drug use, drug peddling, verbal aggression, and even an armed police response to violence by residents of Mount Edwards Court. Emergency response vehicles continue to attend to incidents at Mount Edwards Court at all hours of the day and night.
- Concentrating known drug users into a single building attracts drug dealers which further increases the danger.
- With the increased use of fentanyl and the associated concerns for accidental contamination, this has become an even more serious concern. We have recently been advised by VidPD officers to have Naloxone kits on site.
- Due to the proximity of Mount Edwards Court and the inherent nature of the operation that Cool Aid is running there, the school has suffered a precipitous drop in enrollment.
- We had 26 fewer students at the main school in September. This is a 13.5% drop and it was the first drop of any significance in the past 25 years. It represents a total financial loss including grants of over \$286,000, approximately 11% of overall revenue.
- In addition, our Daycare and Junior Kindergarten operation is down by 10 students (24%) at a time when there is a shortage of daycare spaces in Victoria. We also attribute this decline to the uncertainty caused by the low barrier transitional housing operation at Mount Edwards Court.

- If we don't reverse this trend, the revenue shortfall will result in:
  - a loss of jobs
  - diminished programming
  - the potential loss of our ability to maintain the ratio of students with special needs
  - a diminished capacity to support students with bursaries
  - the loss of more and more students as our programs decline
- If this scenario plays out as described above, which is a very real possibility if the Victoria Cool Aid Society expands the operation as planned, the results will not be a good story for the City of Victoria, the Province of BC, or the cause to end homelessness.

Transcript of the 2016.05.17 7:00 to 9:00 PM Cool Aid Neighbourhood Liaison Meeting held at Christ Church Cathedral

In the following text, most text is paraphrased. Missing parts are marked with an ellipsis .... **Distilled items are in bold font for submission to Cool Aid for amendment of its minutes document.**

*The following transcript adheres to the one-party consent rule under Section 184(2) of the Canadian Criminal Code. THE RECIPIENTS TO WHOM THIS DOCUMENT IS BEING SENT HAVE AN INTEREST IN THIS PUBLIC CONVERSATION.*

0:00

DM: We might as well get started. I am Don McTavish. I work for the Victoria Cool Aid Society. I will try to get us through the business at hand here. I know that these meetings have a tendency to go all over the place. So I'll try to do, is keep us to the agenda in front of us until eight. We usually have the room until about ??? afterwards so I imagine that there are other groups that will continue wanting to talk about Tent City issues or .... People can do that at that point. So we'll just start with introductions since we have a huge room tonight.

GL: Hi. I am Gillian. I am an owner on Burdett Street.

LO: Larry. Owner

?: As you know \i am a parent with a daughter at CCS.

?: My name is Ted. I have children at the school. I'm a church member here and ...

RC: I'm 'ron Cox I live across the street.

BE: Hi. I'm Barbar\edwards I live on Moss Sreet

?: Claire ... May Street

JS: John Sherret coordinator

SH: Stuart Hall head of CCCS.

R: I'm Ron. I live at the Cherry Bank and I have a child at the Cathedral School.

S: I'm Shelly. Owner. Cherry Bank.

JC: James Campbell. Owner. Cherry Bank.

CS: Christopher Schmidt. Owner. Burdett Avenue.

SM: Scott McGregor police department

DO: Dan O'Conner police department

S: Sandy I'm a parent of a child at Cathedral School

CB: Craig Barker police department

B: Bill parent of a child at the Cathedral School

?: Ray neighbour on Vancouver Street

KW: Kim Walker I'm a neighbour on Burdett.

1:43

MF: Ma'idary Finnegan. I'm a neighbour on Burdett.

Janet: Janet Kuseck. Neighbour on Burdett.

CC: Chris Coleman. I'm a member of city council and a parishioner here at Christ Church Cathedral.

B: Bob McTavish just an observer and a friend here ... involved with the staff of the Cool Aid Society and just a curiosity

Do attend the cathedral.

HW:

HH: Heidi Hartman BC Housing

2:09

KS: Kathy Stinson Victoria Cool Aid

JB: Jack Boomer neighbour

GC: George Churcher neighbour

JF: Jim Fliczuk resident

E: Elaine resident Rockland

JY: Jim Yorgan neighbour

FC: France Cormier neighbour

BF: Bill Flanagan local here

2:28

S: Samantha, parent

J: Joanne, parent of the school

B: Barb McDonald, parent of the school

SC: Steve Cullins, parent of two kids at the school

TS: Tad Sims, parent and staff member at the school

AL: Alan Longstaff, I'm a neighbour across the road. I do attend the cathedral.

HW: Helen Walker. I live in the white building across the road.

FM: Fran Mistofo. I live on McClure street.

DM: Thank you. Welcome everyone. There is a sign up sheet at the front door here if anyone wants to see the mail list and sign up and receive it.

GC: Since we are talking about neighbourhoods, could Mr. McTavish, Kathy Stinson, and John Sherret tell us where you live? Do you live in the community, or in Greater Victoria, or do you folks live in Oak Bay.

DM: I don't see how that is relevant to the Mount Edwards operation

GC: It is, when we are advocating what's acceptable in the neighbourhood.

FC: Yes

DM: I live on Fout Bay Road. I have lived on Rockland near Pioneer Square.

FC: Not anymore

3:31

GC: Kathy?

KS: I live in Saanich and I own a property on ... Drive.

GC: And John?

JS: I live on Heywood Avenue.

DM: Alright. Agenda additions. Acceptance?

JB: I do. It is related to the last week we talked about sort of a companion, almost other document from the neighbourhood related to a statement of support about what is going on in the community, so I'd like to table that.

DM: So I thought that it was just for our information at the last table that you guys had mentioned that you wanted to ... some other document

JB: Yeah

DM: .... How does that relate to Mount Edwards, in this case, since that is sort of what this group is about is operations at Mount Edwards, right?

JB: Yes, and it is related to a statement of support about what's happening since at some point Mount Edwards will be moving forward with it's rezoning process,

DM: Right

JB: that will be led by BC Housing, so we wanted an a to share, or let people know what's going on.

DM: OK. Sure. We can put an addendum there. OK acceptance of the minutes of April 19<sup>th</sup>? Has everyone had a chance to ... and we've just received some amendments or some suggested amendments to the Meeting for May 3 today, so we will have to defer that until people can have a look.

5:05

DM: OK. So some actions items from the last meeting. There were to share feedback from businesses in regard to the Neighbourhood Relations Framework. So can somebody speak to that.

Janet: I can only speak in regard to the business that Kathy and I went to, which I'm not even sure what number we went to, thirty?

KS: About 25

KS: 25, OK, actually a majority of the people did not know anything about Mount Edwards. A few did, and the majority were supportive and positive, except one business owner on fort street, a woman who talked about the fact that there was unsavory elements camping out behind her store and sometimes coming into her store and that she felt the business was in jeopardy but that was not directed at Mount Edwards that was just what she said. Another business owner on Meares, who is directly across from Tent City, he is moving because he doesn't feel that it is safe for this family and at the same time found out what Mount Edwards was and what the facility was being used for, he was totally supportive, so it was interesting that he could differentiate between the two sites.

6:40

KS: Good sign. Call us if issues.

GL: I have personally canvassed the business along fort street from cook street to quadra street both sides asking them how they feel about mount Edwards court and I have had a completely different feedback so I find this most interesting.

SH: I was just going to ask how many businesses did you get to and was it all along fort.

KS: We got to about 25 businesses, yes it was...

Janet: from quadra to cook, then business on cook street

Man from WG: I did the south side of Fort with Peter and we got to most businesses, most were positive, others did not know, some mentioned needles and other things.

9:00

Woman from WG; Some were positive, some didn't know, one was not happy about ME and TC and with the process.

FC: I talked to some businesses just on Sunday and I got something really different: I got horror stories, everywhere I went. Everywhere I went I got horror stories about people coming in looking for cameras looking for where they keep the money, customers leaving because they were freaked out by people coming in and just acting very strange. Businesses that are probably going to go out of business, break their leases, move, I've heard a lot of horror stories. Of all the businesses, I was very careful to present both options, and only one of them showed any kind of interest in maybe talking about perhaps Mount Edwards. All the other ones were absolutely opposed to it. Low barrier housing was not something that they support at all.

**Two neighbours have talked to businesses along Fort Street. Businesses have given horror stories about people coming in and acting strangely and customers leaving because they were freaked out by people. These businesses are probably going to go out of business or break their leases and move. All but one business was absolutely opposed to low-barrier housing at Mount Edwards.**

DM: This gentleman and then I think not.

10:00

Tad: Yes, but I think it's a question, but it seems that.. neighbourhood an awful lot of questions ... low-barrier housing ... what is the impact on the neighborhood, what is the research on the impact, really people can't make an informed sort of opinion without this happening... you know that ... there are all sorts of things that have to be there for low barrier housing to be successful... yes we have housing first in Victoria but without the other two things low barrier housing cannot be successful. So...

DM: This was outreach to the businesses. Here we are, what we do. The framework is on the website.

WGM: We were not polling the businesses. It was to present ourselves and tell them that there is a process going.

13:00

Janet: We did not present it for anyone to sign. It is to include them in a loop. Many did not know anything. We gave them the number for concerns.

**A member of the working group stated that she did not seek approval from business about the Transition Framework; rather, it was simply shown to them. Cool Aid specified that they were not out to solicit feedback from businesses.**

KS: We were not out to solicit feedback.

GL: So you did not get any feedback of any kind. That is misleading. My experience has been different. The committee is misleading.

KS: We are just sharing.

DM: Police to clarify statistics or map template.

DO: I can provide the atom template. FOI has no issue. It will help people follow statistics.

**The Police have not yet provided the atom template that was requested at the last meeting but he has confirmed that FOI has no issue with providing that template since it will help people follow the statistics. The Police had promised to bring an atom template to this meeting but he did not.**

DM: How statistics can be reported differently.

DO: Department released statistics package about comparing data last year to this year. We want to continue to provide that information on a 28 day cycle to compare that to previous years. It is big commitment since it takes analyst much time. If we want to talk about individual situations I can do that on a two week basis.

**The Police will provide statistics packages on a 28-day cycle to compare to previous years. Context will be provided to help it make sense. This takes a lot of analyst time. Specific situations can be discussed every two weeks.**

SRG: Since the report is not necessarily a true reflection of what is happening, I get to provide context to that report every 28 days so that it makes sense.

JB: Can you give example of when the stats would not make sense?

DO: Chateau Victoria has an issue. To call out, press 9, then 11 to make international calls. We get one call per day there for 911 abandoned call for service.

JY: We know that that is not legitimate. That would not be reported in your stats.

SM: Yes it would be. It is a call for service.

DO: We respond to every call for service.

SM: Another example is if an elderly lady falls and injures herself. We determine that it is a medical call. It generates a call for service. We can look at a 46% increase but until we read all calls we do not know what generated that call. A significant spike in calls for service for downtown has been reported but many were abandoned 911 or false alarms to businesses.

JY: We are interested in the increase in violent crimes and thefts.

SM: You won't achieve what you are looking for. We provided crime statistics in December by the media and it called no increase almost. But calls for service filled the gap showing the impact on the community such as a call for overdose in someone's front yard but no crime has been committed. It is traumatizing and it ties up a police unit but no crime statistic is generated.

**When crime statistics were reported in December, it did not show the impact on the community such as an overdose in someone's front yard since no crime is committed in that situation. Despite its being traumatizing and tying up police time, no crime statistic is generated. So just reporting violent crime will not give an accurate picture of the impact on the community.**

DM: Can we bring this back to ME and we will leave as much time as possible to talk in depth about can talk about statistics later. Anything else to highlight?

**Cool Aid tried repeatedly to get the dialogue to return to Mount Edwards operations.**

DO: A were eight calls for service.

JB: Last week we requested that there were a number of calls made to bylaw and that those calls were not necessarily reflected in the police stats. I think Chris made the commitment to get the stats on bylaw the increase in bylaws because if somebody is camping in a camp as I've made several calls in the last few weeks about somebody camping in Pioneer Park and I think it might be actually on a bnb but just kidding but there has been an increase definitely. Have you had an opportunity?

CC: I haven't had an opportunity, no.

JB: OK. I would greatly appreciate if that was minuted we asked for it last time two weeks ago and that it was reflected as commented. And in regard to the police stats, I think that... if you are releasing statistics without scrubbing the data, then I would question the utility of the data. If the data needs to be interpreted, then it is probably useless. So your guidance as to what the stats are would be helpful.

**A neighbour raised that last week it came up that calls to bylaw were not necessarily reflected in police statistics and that he recalls the City agreeing to get the stats regarding the increase in bylaw calls. He asked if the City has had the opportunity to provide those statistics; the City confirmed that it has not had the opportunity to provide those statistics.**



22:30

DDm: The event at ME made me uncomfortable. Can you tell us what happened?

DO: Police were called and the individual was tasered. The individual was violent towards himself.

JS: He was in his room making noises. He would not open the door. We felt it was important to call the police.

DDm: What weapon.

DO: Knife.

DDm: What level of agitation do you have to get to to be tasered.

Sarg: He did not drop the knife when asked. The safest way to take him into custody is to taser him.

DDm: Did the officer feel threatened by the knife.

Sarg: It has to be as safe as possible for the officer. He could have used the baton or the gun. Bare hands is dangerous. Taser was safest.

DDm: Is there policy?

Sarg: No policy but training.

27:00

DDm: Then the screening policy leaves something to be desired if someone like that is at ME.

DM: Our mandate is to provide housing for people with mental illness. He was known to MH system, we knew where he was coming from, so we knew to call. If he hadn't been in ME...

DDm: It sounds like he didn't belong in ME but rather in a hospital.

DM: No, but we put him to a hospital.

DDm: It sounds like a time bomb to put someone like that next to a school.

?: Will he return?

DM: That hasn't been determined/

JF: Eight incidents?

DO: In pioneer park and ME. One call for service for theft, one suspicious person,

Sarg: Our job is to provide context to statistics. Someone asked CC about bylaws statistics. A call from PP might not generate a bylaw statistic. The stat won't reflect it until the back end of that file is scored.

JB: We are becoming experts of where to call, ...

GL: I want to acknowledge that the police are stretched beyond their means. I have had to call because of incidents, one of them traumatic, and the tent city person and I were taken care of, and I think you are in a difficult spot. And it is important to clarify that the people in ME have a choice of whether they accept counselling and medications but they are too ill to make that distinction and that is why I oppose LB housing because it does not service the people that it is supposed to and therefore the neighbourhood suffers.

**A neighbour raised the concern that those in Mount Edwards have a choice of whether to accept counselling and medication but they are too ill to make that choice and that that is why she opposes low-barrier housing since it does not service the people that it is supposed to service and therefore the neighbourhood suffers.**

Janet: I want to raise criteria as far as screening individuals and there is no criteria for screening out people with MH issues

33:00

JY: Don't they ask for references?

Janet: In my building there were two people who degenerated in MH issues and we figured out how to interact with her. So those who live in our own apartments we can be adjacent to those with MH issues.

?: But people are being tasered.

Parent: And my ten year old does not have the sense that you have so that is a different ball of wax.

FC: And I would like to add that the screening criteria for ME are actually only for people like that so it is not only one person but more that we can handle so the ... criteria for selection are only restricted to people with serious drug addiction and mental illness and there is too many at once for us to be able to absorb this.

CS: I would like to add that Leighton's building in which you live Janet is a plus 55 building...

DM: (cut me off)

CS: I shouldn't try to talk then.

Tad: Mental illness has touched my life... and this problem is bigger than the police and cool aid and health authority has resources for. But I disagree, I can't support Mount Edwards, I think we need something new because these people need more. And the effect on children's brains is detrimental. And if everyone in this room would say that they are against the ME project said that they would support more monies and help for these people, if you said that you look for a more appropriate site and you demand a world class facility, would you consider changing your minds about the location and the makeup of mount Edwards.

LO: I'd like to make a comment,

?: I'd actually like to hear the response.

DM: We would take whatever help is offered. A large state of the art facility sounds very good.

Tad: (Something about not giving an answer)

**A parent asked whether Cool Aid would consider changing its mind about the location and makeup of Mount Edwards if everyone in this room supported a world-class facility elsewhere.**

DM: I think that we want to get through the business of hand for me which we have for twelve months, there will be rezoning meetings... was your comment about ME the operations.

LO: I want to comment about what Janet said about the screening process and I would say that absolutely as a landlord you screen the tenants and if he doesn't then the landlord is an idiot.

Janet: But how do you know.

Tad: If it was more severe they would not have a house.

LO: As a landlord you get lease agreement and credit checks and ... and with those three things you can call a landlord and feel out whether the landlord is happy to get rid of that tenant. So there is much differences from that and a low-barrier situation.

Janet: These tenants did not move into the building exhibiting mh issues.

GL: How many people?

DM: Getting off topic.

GL: How many people?

Janet: Two.

?: So a lot more are in ME.

A member of the working group attempted to liken the Mount Edwards mentally-ill residents to the two elderly residents who slowly became demented where she rents her apartment and she recalled that she learned how to interact with them. Neighbours pointed out that Mount Edwards only selects for people with mental illness and drug addiction and that a lot more than two people are in Mount Edwards and that it brings too many ill people into the neighbourhood. Another neighbour pointed out that having a man that would yield a knife against police and wield a knife is a time bomb next to a school. A landlord neighbour pointed out that landlords absolutely use their means to screen out tenants that might be problems.

DM: Nothing from FGCA.

HH: Nothing right now.

JB: Jim and I met and what we understand is that BCH should be responsible for rezoning application and not Cool Aid since BCH is the owner. And Heidi I would ask that since BCH has purchased ME and it is months and there is angst and there is concern about the future so it is incumbent to BCH to say by this date we will tell you the plan for rezoning. So please go back to BCH and come back with something tangible and not words saying that we are looking into it (rezoning).

A neighbour raised that BC Housing and not Cool Aid is responsible for the rezoning application for Mount Edwards since BC Housing is the owner of Mount Edwards.

GC: We are worried with 38 residents since Rich Coleman forced this to go ahead. We worry about delaying and then being forced into another 101 residents. BCH has not been clear with truth.

DM: Nothing from City?

CC: No application has come to us.

Tad: Mayor supports the process and when asked questions she did not ... like would you please look into statistics for these facilities regarding community impact and what goes on inside the facility and her response was that there have't been any complaints at the other shelter... the boys and girls club... her sense was that she knows better and that she was not concerned about what I was asking.

CC: There is another form at Camus court,

FC: Totally different.

Tad: ...

46:00

CC: I will take that message back to the City and it is useful to have a report about low-barrier housing. There is an operation two blocks that way run by Camus Court, which is a different organization, so there are other options

??: Totally different.

Tad: Is there a comparable building exactly, I would say that there are other buildings that are more comparable.

JY: So to clarify on your comments Chris is Camus Garden then a similar facility to Mount Edwards,

??: Not at all.

JY: In terms of its residents,

??: Not at all.

JY: Or the occupants of that building?

CC: The occupants I believe are the same profile, is a purpose built building, which is different

JY: Is it low barrier.

??: No it isn't. There is 24 concierge, rules and regulations, self contained units, not low-barrier,

FC: And people across the street from it say that it is a zoo, people screaming at night, the police are called approximately

JY: It is not a comparable site to ME and you know that.

The City attempted to liken Mount Edwards to Camus Gardens but neighbours pointed out that the differences are that Camus Gardens is not low-barrier, it has a 24-hour concierge, it has rules and regulations, and it has self-contained units.

47:30

??: I think that the mayor cannot be trusted.

CC: She has got the province to match funds. We are looking for short-term solutions but both Cool Aid and BCHousing ...

Tad: Let's save our short-term solutions for somewhere other than next to a school.

GL: The public has been thrown a bone which is that we are going to apply for a rezoning, but provincial does not have to follow municipal, so this is all a farce, since they don't have to follow the bylaws anyway.

CC: So, the province said that they were buying MEC but it will be exempted for a year, they then said that they will let the building go through a zoning process.

GL: That was given after the uproar in our neighbourhood since no one was consulted.

FC: BCHousing has said that Cool Aid will be running this facility so the decision has already been made in advance.

52:00

A report from JS was given. Source Security is providing coverage out front.

GL: Peter was wearing a Source vest and acting as security which is odd since he is a cool aid employee.

JS: I'll mention that to Peter. I have asked him that if the security person was on the break, would he please step outside.

??: Are the security guards authorized to use force?

JS: No.

??: Is anyone aware that children are asking why there are security outside their school?

DM: We did it because we were asked.

??: Have you kept the makeup as equal parts mental health, drug, and affordability issues?

KS: The tenants are mostly from tent city since we are looking at how to house them now.

57:00

JS: Staff was asked to rank residents by amount of resources needed: someone who does not require direct support, needs some support, and needs lots of support. 21 need lots of support.

DDm: I'm glad that source is being used. We spent a lot of time at meetings saying that the CLs were inadequate.

JS: ...

JB: The kids would question why someone has to monitor the situation regardless of who is monitoring.

Tad: Children know that something is wrong but not the nature of what is wrong. Parents can mitigate but what Cool Aid and the Province cannot guarantee is that there isn't going to be an event or an incident, and we can guarantee that there will be an incident, and that is one incident too many.

DM: We should move along right there.

SH: Our security guards are known to the kids.

Tad: If ME goes in, no matter how many people it helps, I think that it will hurt kids, so I think that now is the time to advocate for a different choice, maybe a better choice.

**A parent stated that no matter how many people it helps, Mount Edwards will hurt kids, so now is the time to advocate for a different and better choice.**

1:02:00

SH: Made his report: seven needles around school and church, unwanted people, two drug injections witnessed by families of school, most of it is tent city incidents, but a large spike.

??: I wonder about contract that BC Housing is pursuing. I asked how you could be sure that it wasn't involving Mount Edwards, and you told me that you could not be sure. But you said that you are 100% sure this time.

JY: But we've heard from Cool Aid that the people at ME are the people from TC, so it's hard to make that distinction.

FC: And someone from ME made it into playground.

SH: Yes

JB: So are you comfortable with ME?

SH: I'm not happy with how it was put in place. I would like to see something else there in the future. I am happy with their being communicative. It has affected enrolment and so has tent city. They are two things and they are quite related and in the eyes of many parents they are the same.

**The Cathedral School stated that it is not happy with how Mount Edwards was put in place. It is happy with Cool Aid's being communicative but it would like to see something else there in the future.**

Tad: We are not talking about what Mount Edwards is going to be, which is really the most important thing. I hope that you and the school are educating yourself about the options and putting them forward.

SH: We are.

SH: Charter rights include protection from psychological harm. Children are vulnerable. We need to protect the kids.

CS: I just want to speak to Stuart's comment that we are not here to discuss the future of Mount Edwards. But neighbours have been coming here to use these meetings to speak about lots of issues that concerned them. It came up last meeting that Chris Coleman said, "we do this stuff, we do this process is called Good Neighbour stuff, that's why we have these meetings. It's the process", and it came as quite a shock to me to learn that many people are coming here to protest what is happening here at Mount Edwards, to ask it to change, and that, in the process of doing this, this document keeps coming up that, you know, we're coming here could be cast as something that it is not, could be cast as a framework that could justify a future rezoning, and we've asked repeatedly what these meetings are about a rezoning, and in reality, in practice, these meetings are about a rezoning because you guys are attempting to get a document out of these meetings that will justify potentially a rezoning.

KS: No we are not.

DM: That's not true. I disagree, but that's your opinion and you are entitled to it.

GC: I will echo my opinion that the minutes of these meetings certainly seem to be very well laundered.

**A neighbour raised a concern that these meetings--where neighbours protest the presence of Cool Aid at Mount Edwards—are about a rezoning since Cool Aid is attempting to get a document out of these meetings that would justify potentially a**

rezoning. Cool Aid denied that these meetings are about getting a document that could be cast as a framework to justify a future rezoning. Another neighbour stated that the minutes of these meetings seem to be well laundered.

DM: OK. Thank you for that. Anything else.

1:08:30

DM: Section for updates. City?

CC: Church?

English Man: If you read the paper, listen to what the Dean has said, that is how we feel in the Church. We are willing to help people, but not, yeah, ...

KS: What the Dean said was about Tent City.

English Man: I wasn't about Tent City. They keep telling us that it's the same people from Tent City and Mount Edwards court.

KS: It is the same people but once they are housed they act very differently.

JY: What about Queen's manor?

FC: That's not true.

DM: Are there any last questions that we might need to know for better operation?

FC: There has been two more assaults with deadly weapons since we last met. So we are up to six or seven since the beginning of April.

DO: Your crime reports that you are looking online, I found it as well, it doesn't give much information, there was two weapons calls, one was in relation to a air-soft gun, so it is not-a-real gun.

Tad: If a kid sees it,

DO: For sure. That was a weapons call.

FC: But these were assaults with deadly weapon.

DO: I can check it for you.

Sarg: Assault with deadly weapon should be just assault with a weapon, since all weapons are deadly.

1:11:30

Sarg: There was a report of an assault against a person here, it was reported that he assaulted a security guard out front, but the guard said that there was no assault, so that is what we reported, but we investigated and determined that there had been no assault. Since tent city started, there have been probably been six or seven assaults.

FC: We have had neighbours who have been assaulted.

Sarg: Are they reporting it to police?

FC: Yes.

Sarg: There was someone across from tent city who reported being assaulted but the neighbour was not interested in giving a statement of an assault.

DM: If no more statements,

JB: There was a point about the operational contract.

HH: We did receive an FOI request, so it has gone through the formal channels to receive a copy of the Mount Edwards contract.

JB: I made the request for the contract between Cool Aid and Mount Edwards and Portland Housing provider. Those are public dollars going through a formal process to obtain the contract which we will make available.

DM: Other topic?

JB: Some of you are aware that two weeks ago we talked about getting a statement of support, showing this is what is happening in the community and this is facts and that this is what we support, so what we talked about two weeks ago, we made a request that if what is there right now does not meet what should be in the community, then what should be there, since it was supported housing for seniors before, and we agree that it should be housing, but we disagree on what is what that looks like, so a group got together but we agreed that we would like to see mixed-housing, it is zoned for seniors supportive housing, and we agree that the current operator has done nothing to engender community support and because they specialize in low-barrier housing, then perhaps we would support something different and, unlike the "good work" that Cool Aid and their five supporters have done,

DM: Jack, I would appreciate it if you were just a bit more objective...

JB: Absolutely Don just like you guys are like with me. Unlike what Cool Aid has done, we have 50-60 statements in the last 24-hours of people who are supportive of this position. We have also met with the FGCA. Since we need to talk about what we would like to see in the future, so if people support this, then it would make it a lot easier for whomever is operating the facility to go forward with the rezoning process, hopefully in the next few weeks, BC Housing and the service provider can tell us what it will look like. The FGCA enters into a CALUC process, once those community meetings happen, that information is put to the City, and then it starts another community process. That will put us into June at the earliest, and at the earliest something in September, so we can expect that the government will want to do a contract extension with the current service provider. This is intended to push that process forward. This document can be downloaded.

A neighbour raised that the neighbourhood has produced a statement stating the sort of housing that the neighbourhood would like to see. We all agree that Mount Edwards should be used for housing but the neighbourhood and Cool Aid disagree on what it should look like, so a group of neighbours got together and agreed that we would like to see mixed-housing, since it was seniors housing before, but we do not want low-barrier housing and that the current operator has done nothing to engender community support. That statement has received 50-60 signatures in 24 hours. This statement of what the neighbourhood wants is intended to help push the zoning process forward.

Cool Aid claimed that there are somethings with the document that are not facts; the neighbour replied that several neighbours spent hours working on it and that its content has been documented.

KS: there are somethings that are not facts.

JB: Let us know what those might be. We spent hours with half a dozen to a dozen people who have been part of these meetings and we have newspaper articles and we have everything documented and recorded.

Janet: Jack, I heard that you just sold your house. Are you going to continue to support the neighbourhood?

JB: Yes. Why would I not?

??: I support the neighbourhood and I live in Royal Oak.

DM: I think we should wrap up the ME portion of the meeting. We still have the room for 20 minutes for people to talk. Thank you all for coming out.

If you make a decision, the builder can sue for not being able to pursue... they can sue for financial loss due to a certain judgment call.

Amendments for Mount Edwards Court Neighbourhood Meeting Draft Minutes  
for May 17, 2016

Hello Ms. Stinson,

May 30, 2016

This proposed amendment is to bring to the table some items and detail for your Mount Edwards Court Neighbourhood Meeting Draft Minutes for May 17, 2016. It is attached to this email. Please append it and incorporate it into your draft minutes document for that May 17, 2016 meeting.

Since this is being sent to you before your own minutes have been sent out, it is my hope that you are receiving it in enough time for appending and approval at tomorrow's meeting.

Sincerely Yours,  
Christopher Schmidt

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*Beginning of Amendment Document*

Two neighbours have talked to businesses along Fort Street. Businesses have given horror stories about people coming in and acting strangely and customers leaving because they were freaked out by people. These businesses are probably going to go out of business or break their leases and move. All but one business was absolutely opposed to low-barrier housing at Mount Edwards.

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A neighbour raised a concern that these meetings--where neighbours protest the presence of Cool Aid at Mount Edwards—are about a rezoning since Cool Aid is attempting to get a document out of these meetings that would potentially justify a rezoning. Cool Aid denied that these meetings are about getting a document that could be cast as a framework to justify a future rezoning. Another neighbour stated that the minutes of these meetings seem to be well laundered.

A neighbour raised that the neighbourhood has produced a statement stating the sort of housing that the neighbourhood would like to see. We all agree that Mount Edwards should be used for housing but the neighbourhood and Cool Aid disagree on what it should look like, so a group of neighbours got together and agreed that we would like to see mixed-housing, since it was seniors housing before, but we do not want low-barrier housing and that the current operator has done nothing to engender community support. That statement has received 50-60 signatures in 24 hours. This statement of what the neighbourhood wants is intended to help with the zoning process.

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## Noraye Fjeldstad

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**From:** Jonathan Bengtson [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 15, 2017 5:47 PM  
**To:** Chris Coleman (Councillor); Lisa Helps (Mayor); Sramsay [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Return Mt. Edwards to a Nursing Home

**Categories:** Awaiting Staff Response, Respond through Mayor and Council inbox

Dear Fellow Citizens,

Considering low-to-medium needs supportive housing at Mt. Edwards Court in Victoria is too big of a risk, as it is right next door to an elementary school. If liquor stores and pot shops have to be 200 m away from a school, Mount Edwards Court — at only 38 m from Christ Church Cathedral School — is 172 m too close. Dozens of families — much less neighbours of the school — are prepared to be very vocal about this and the need to put “Families First”. No one I have talked to is anti-homeless and many have been surprised by the rhetoric by CoolAid and others that we do not support the most vulnerable in our society. On the contrary, innocent kindergarteners to grade 8 kids are the most vulnerable population in our city.

A nursing home is a better fit for the neighbourhood and consistent with existing norms of separating kids from drug users, liquor stores, and pot shops.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Bengtson

## Noraye Fjeldstad

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**From:** Donna Longley [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 16, 2017 5:19 PM  
**To:** Chris Coleman (Councillor)  
**Cc:** Lisa Helps (Mayor)  
**Subject:** Return Mt. Edwards to a Nursing Home  
  
**Categories:** Respond through Mayor and Council inbox, Awaiting Staff Response

Dear Chris Coleman and Mayor Lisa Helps,

As a family of a child who attends Christ Church Cathedral School, I do not support changing the zoning from one social need to give way to another social need.

A nursing home is a better fit for the neighbourhood of Christ Church Cathedral school.

People bought homes in the area because of the school, the church and the nursing home. Changing the zoning to fit a low barrier supportive housing facility will have a negative impact on the school, not to mention the property values and the safety of the neighbourhood will decrease like those near the Central Baptist Care home on Johnson Street. Safety for children attending the school is a major concern for all families.

Christ Church Cathedral school is only elementary school located in the downtown region and is a needed service for young families living downtown. With the new children's park being developed on the tent city site, families need to trust their children are safe to play in the park. Families will not use a park if there is unwanted or worrying behavior from residents of a proposed low barrier neighbouring property of 100 people, possibly suffering from mental health or addition problems.

Our son class used to go on a regular basis to Mount Edwards Court when it was a care facility to read to the seniors, when he was in grade one and it was a good partnership established between the school and the nursing home. Both the seniors and the children benefitted by building an ongoing strong relationship established through the reading program.

Sincerely,

Donna Longley  
1343 Slater Street  
Victoria BC V8X 2P8  
Phone [REDACTED]