

Richmond VisitAbility Task Force
12 – 2:30 p.m. January 22, 2015 Meeting
Executive Airport Plaza Hotel & Conference Centre

MEETING NOTES

Resources Review & Discussion

Richmond Development Stats Summary

- Many large and small housing projects in Richmond presently
- A drop in number of single family homes being built in past several years (nearly 40% decrease)
- Reason possibly is due to no new subdivision in Richmond
- New homes might not include infill and custom built houses
- To understand more of this, and to promote visitAble features for custom built houses, a meeting with the Richmond's Small Builders' Group will be beneficial, and we can also present about the VisitAbility Task Force
- Presentation to Canadian Home Builders' Association of BC's Renovators Council has been suggested

"Sorry No Vacancy Housing Survey" by Spinal Cord Injury BC

- The issue of "affordability" was discussed, and it was pointed out that only 5% of the new homes built are affordable rental units in Richmond, versus 20% by-law requirement in Vancouver
- The task force hopes to learn more about this from Dena Kae Beno from City of Richmond
- How can we increase the affordable housing stock in Richmond?

Updates of Award of Excellence in VisitAble Housing

- Information of the award has been widely circulated to the industry and through disability community, for instance members of the Greater Vancouver Home Builders' Association (815 members)
- An article was posted on Realtor Link in December 2014 edition, and circulated to 11,500 realtors in the Lower Mainland, through the Real Estate Board of Greater Vancouver
- The award has been broadcasted widely through the task force, including presentation to the Urban Design Institute in November 2014, social media presence, and Radio interview (Chinese radio station AM1320)

BC Provincial VisitAble Housing Resource List Form

- In response to the CCDS Project Team's request to submit information and resources related to VisitAble Housing in of BC, the Task Force agreed to send all info to Ella, and submit collectively to the Project Team to avoid duplication.
- Deadline is Feb. 28, Task Force members to send info to Ella by Feb. 20.

Phase II Action Plan Review

VisitAbility Survey

- A copy of the CCDS 2014 VisitAbility Research on Bridgwater Case Study was shared and discussed, as well as the respective questionnaires for architects, home builders and land developers
- It is still the intention of the Richmond Task Force to conduct a survey to home builders, including the aspects of renovation regarding choice, cost and what the experience is like
- Can be presented to each geographical groups of home builders and renovators

Certification Training for Home Builders

- Currently in BC home builders designation is through the Homeowners Protection Office (HPO) of BC Housing, they maintain a searchable public registry of all Licensed Residential Builders and Building Envelope Renovators
- HPO Research and Education Initiatives include areas of consumer information, education and training, and new and improved technologies, more info can be viewed at <http://www.hpo.bc.ca/technical-research-education>
- The survey outcomes may provide some insights into this area

UBCM

- The Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) is the advocate for local government in British Columbia
- Discussions unfolded the process of presenting to Richmond Council to get their support, so that the idea can be presented to UBCM
- To identify a Council Champion, possibly Derek Deng who is a realtor with over 23 years of experience

Next Meeting

Tuesday, March 24, 2015, 12 p.m.to 2:30 p.m.

Attachments

- Richmond VisitAbility Task Force Phase 2 Action Plan – revised Feb. 3, 2015 (an outcome column has been added to reflect progress of action plan)
- Draft Survey for Home Builders and Renovators – online survey will be developed, and link can be sent out to recipients at a click (need feedback by Feb. 10 to start the development work)