



Protect Riverview

Deadline for comments is Friday, February 12 2016

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We suggest you submit your comments to BC Housing by emailing them to questions@renewingriverview.com. This is easier than using the PlaceSpeak option. You might want to first review BC Housing's 24 page "A Vision for Renewing Riverview" document which is posted to their renewingriverview.com website.

1. BC Housing is proposing to divide Riverview into 4 "precincts" with only a small portion to remain for mental health care – the other three precincts will be retail, market housing and an undefined "economic precinct" (see map on page 18 of the *Vision* document). If you want all of Riverview protected for mental health care (most people do), say so and say it very clearly!
2. BC Housing is proposing to demolish the Valleyview hospital building and construct a new mental health care facility in its place. However, Valleyview opened in 1959 with beds for over 300 patients. The interior of Valleyview resembles most modern hospitals. It is bright and airy with wide hallways, rooms for occupational therapy and a special garden for dementia patients. As it was closed only 4 years ago, it is a building that could be easily returned to the care of dementia patients. Speak up if you want to save Valleyview and have it brought back for use again.
3. BC Housing is proposing to spend \$175 million on two new facilities at Riverview which will provide a net gain of only 17 new beds for mental health care. If you think this is far too high a cost for too few beds, say so!
4. BC Housing is proposing to NOT PROTECT Riverview's trees EXCEPT in a few small areas designated as either "priority focus areas" or "areas of consideration" (see map on page 16 of the *Vision* document). If you think all the trees at Riverview merit protection, say so. Tell BC Housing that any new buildings must be built in a manner that will not impair the health of the existing trees. This world-class tree collection is integrated within the entire site so a piecemeal approach to protection is unacceptable.
5. BC Housing is suggesting some land at Riverview could be given to Kwikwetlem First Nation for them to develop as they see fit. Surely, other arrangements to settle land claims are preferable to losing part of Riverview!
6. BC Housing is reneging on a promise to "protect as much open space as presently exists". They now say they will only protect as much open space "as possible" - essentially a meaningless statement. This is a broken promise.
7. Please be explicit in stating all the activities/uses you do not want to see at Riverview, e.g., market housing, condos in high-rise towers, stores, schools, rental apartments for the public, industrial areas, etc. Also, be similarly explicit on what you would like to see at Riverview, e.g., hospitals and research centre for mental health, training facilities and other services/programs for recovering patients, drop-in centres for mental health patients, long term care for dementia patients, long term care for the elderly, possibly community services, government offices and labs, other health care facilities in addition to mental health care, opportunities to enjoy nature, full protection and enhancement of the tree collection, training in horticultural services, community gardens, walking paths for the public, protection and re-use of heritage buildings, maintenance of Riverview's healing landscapes.
8. BC Housing claims to be consulting with the public but they have already advertised for a project coordinator who will be involved in the development of multi-unit social housing and affordable rental housing despite the fact that their web-based survey conducted last year showed very little support for regular housing at Riverview.

You might feel you have submitted similar comments many times before (and, hopefully, you have!). But remember, BC Housing's strategy is to "consult with the public" until the point of exhaustion as they hope that eventually, people will stop submitting comments. At that point, they could declare that, having heard no negative comments, everyone must approve of what they want to do! Thus, we must be relentless in sending comments to them! Silence on our part could lead to the loss of the Riverview we know, love and value.

Thank You!