

## **Meeting Minutes October 23<sup>rd</sup> 2018 (General Meeting)**

### **Volunteer Engagement**

Over the past two weeks an additional 20 residents in the FY/LV area have joined the email update list.

In addition a number of other local area residents have commented through various Facebook groups that they would like to volunteer.

### **November 4th Coffee at the Bentway**

The Bentway has indicated they are supportive of us having the coffee “meet and greet” event at their location.

The objective of this event is to gather local residents and residents of local shelters/respite centres to have a cup of coffee and dialogue. It is hoped that through this event local residents can gain insight into the experience and background of the homeless in our neighbourhood. As well the event is also designed so as to ensure that the vulnerable in our society feel a sense of belonging and welcome by the community.

Tim Horton’s at Bathurst and Queens Quay has offered to supply donuts as we will be purchasing coffee from their location. An anonymous donor has offered to pay for the coffee. We will be approaching other local retailers to ask for their assistance in supporting this event.

A number of local residents have responded through Facebook that they will be attending the event (response to a post). It is important that we work to encourage dialogue and conversation between all attendees.

At this point the number of attendees is unknown and may be difficult to gather.

Given the event is only two weeks away we will have a special meeting next Tuesday, October 30th that will focus only on this event. Meeting will be held at 231 Fort York Boulevard – Media Room – 7:00 pm.

To Do:

- 1) Gather from Bentway any requirements for event.
- 2) Address security and support
- 3) Approach local respite centres and homeless/temporary shelters to put the invitation out.
- 4) Confirm support/supplemental items are gathered (cups / water etc.)

### **VOLUNTEER GROUPS**

We have had a tremendous response through Facebook groups from local residents wanting to know what volunteer roles or groups are available. Moving forward each volunteer group will have its own regular meeting once a month. We will work on providing an avenue where volunteers can join through a meeting application such they can join from home without the need to travel.

Based on the response it is recommended that we establish, at this point, three distinct volunteer groups.

1)Clothing and Support Drives – this group will focus on initiatives that will support the basic needs of residents of homeless shelters in our community. Eric has agreed to take the lead on this group.

2)Event and Support – this group will focus on events and community engagement opportunities similar to the November 4th Coffee at the Bentway event. We will need to seek a volunteer to be a lead for this group.

3)Advocacy – this group will focus on working with the City and Operators to support programs and initiatives that will ensure the quick and successful transition of shelter residents to mainstream living.

General meetings of Project Comfort will be held once a month moving forward on the 2nd Tuesday of each month.

### **Leveraging Social Media**

The website [www.projectcomfort.ca](http://www.projectcomfort.ca) has been secured. The website will be updated and worked on over the next few weeks to bring visitors up to speed on the progress and initiatives of Project Comfort.

We will also secure more formal email addresses providing security, compliance and establishing privacy policies to protect our volunteers and their information.

In addition a Facebook group has been established for Project Comfort.

We welcome tonight to our meeting a resident from the Queens Quay area. She expressed that there is interest from residents in her area in Project Comfort. Two attendees at the meeting have agreed to take on responsibility of posting updates to the Queens Quay and City Place Facebook group pages.

### **WINTER JACK DRIVE**

With the cold weather upon us it was suggested that we look to hold a winter parka drive.

Eric will take the initiative on this project.

## **Engagement With City and Respite Centre**

Over the past six weeks we have been attempting to connect with the city (SSHA) and the local respite centre (Bathurst and Lakeshore) with no success. Email and phone attempts have gone unanswered.

One of the members will look to engage Joe Cressy's office in an attempt to open dialogue with our group.