

## **Nickelsville Ballard Community Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes**

2:30 PM, May 8, 2017

### **Location:**

Cheryl Chow Court  
2014 NW 57<sup>th</sup> St  
Seattle, WA 98107

In Attendance:

### **From Nickelsville:**

Annie, Carlos, Benjamin and Scott

### **From the Community Advisory Committee:**

Mike Stewart, Erik Nelson, Jayson Morris, Kathleen Weber and Jean Darsie, Jen Muzia

### **From the Low Income Housing Institute:**

Alireza Sharekian

### **From the City of Seattle Human Services Department:**

Lis Gustaveson

### **Nickelsville Contact Information:**

Ballard Village Phone: (206) 390-9292

Nickelsville Staff:

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### **Operations Update:**

Annie reported that there were 24 adults in camp, 4 of whom were women. There is 1 child, 1 family and 2 pets.

Carlos reported that a key had broken off in the lock to the service entrance to camp. This had caused a missed garbage pickup, a missed honey bucket cleaning, and damage to the Honey Bucket cleaning hose when the cleaning was finally done.

A donation of a couch that could not be used added to the need for a dump run. Donors continue to bring food often to the camp, with regular dinners coming on Monday nights.

Nickelodeons observed that the number of homeless people dying and suffering in King County was increasing and not decreasing. The two newest sanctioned encampments, Nickelsville Georgetown and the SHARE Licton Springs Tiny House Village, primarily took referrals from sweeps and were always full –

like their camp.

Ali Sharekian, a Case Manager for the Low Income Housing Institute, submitted the HMIS Encampment Report for April 2017, which accompanies these minutes, and clarified them.

#### City Sanctioned Encampment Evaluation

On short notice the CAC had been asked to add an Agenda Item regarding a review of the History of the Ballard City Sanctioned Encampment, with members of the committee being asked to share their impressions of the process and its various outcomes over the last two years.

Lisa Gustaveson then introduced herself. She had been recently hired as a "TES Planning and Development Specialist" by the Seattle Human Services Department. She explained that the evaluation she was producing had a short timeline, and it was intended to help inform future city sanctioned encampments and the movement of the existing city sanctioned encampments.

The Committee then engaged with her in highlighting their impressions in an effort to assist.

It was observed that it is still difficult to describe how the city is helping people get into housing, and to understand the effectiveness of these efforts. Lisa outlined some of the benchmarks used to track these efforts.

Because safety and stability was helpful to this end, and because of the city desire to eliminate unsanctioned encampments, the City had pushed hard to get the Licton Springs Low Barrier Encampment Operational.

A CAC leader said that more direction for the CAC from the City at the start of Ballard Nickelsville would have been helpful.

Mike Steward observed that so far the City's Encampment Website information on sanctioned encampments was sparse, and that the city was welcome to use the Ballard CAC website as a template for their work.

Lisa offered that in the past City Staff didn't always talk across department lines adequately during the startup process. She offered that the present use of the Emergency Operations Center daily by City Staff had improved cross department communications.

CAC members noted that it appeared City leaders hadn't had a grasp of the site limitations, such as inability to access running water or hook into the electrical grid at Ballard.

It was observed that at times the case management data seemed spotty, and it was hard to understand the goals of the case management.

Some CAC members regretted not advocating more aggressively for services for the encampment like water and electricity.

CAC leaders felt that the camps daily operations were fine, and that reporting of the daily operations

was transparent.

It was observed that there wasn't really a point of contact with the City.

Another recommendation was to get the CAC's going ahead of the time the encampment commenced operations.

This led to more discussion of the start of the Ballard Sanctioned encampment. It was pointed out that there were real concerns about how the encampment would affect business. Nearby business with good owners were initially very upset, but have become generous supporters of the camp. The entire process was very contentious.

The DoN, it was suggested, should do a lot of listening sessions with neighbors.

Lisa was asked what the CAC for Tent City5 at Interbay was like, since Ms. Gustaveson had previously been a member. She responded that it is more involved in supporting daily operations – such as propane deliveries – and is now advocating for the camp to remain in Interbay.

The CAC Chair asked that Lisa's study be made public, which Lisa said would happen. Lisa thanked the CAC members for their time and straightforwardness, and said that the information was useful and would be incorporated in the study.

The meeting was then adjourned.