# Nickelsville Georgetown Community Advisory Committee

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| CAC Name | Nickelsville Georgetown |
| Date | April 9, 2019 |
| Meeting Location | St. Vincent de Paul, Georgetown |
| Call to Order (time) | 4:07pm |
| CAC Members in Attendance | Erik Maus, Barbara Hill, Bill Oliver, John Phillips;  Other CAC representation: Brooke Brod (Northlake) Eliana Scott-Thoenres (Othello Village) Sarah Jones (Northlake) |
| Permitted Encampment Members in Attendance | Ian Boote, Lorraine Hoover, Hattie Rhodes, Misty Wilkerson, Victor Kipping, Mike Mitchell, Bobby D, |
| Operator Representatives in Attendance | Sharon Lee (LIHI), Josh Castle (LIHI), Scott Harris (LIHI), Peggy Hotes (Nickelsville), |
| City of Seattle Staff in Attendance | Tom Van Bronkhorst, Jackie St. Louis |
| Also in Attendance | Stacy Johnson, Chris McDaniel, |
| Recorder/Note Taker | John Phillips |
| Previous Meeting Notes Approved (No or Yes/Date) | Yes, 3/30/2019 |
| Previous Meeting Notes Posted (No or Yes/Date) | Yes, 3/30/2019 |

**CAC Member Reports:**

This is was special meeting for the CAC members to learn about recent dissolution of collaboration between LIHI and Nickelsville after a MOU was not agreed upon as required by the City of Seattle. The Georgetown CAC prepared questions for the three entities: 1. LIHI, 2. Nickelsville, 3. City of Seattle

**CAC Questions LIHI**

Barbara Hill asked about what the day-to-day plan for operations is for the next 6 months? And the plan for a code of conduct as it will be applied to operations?

Sharon Lee responded that the City has extended permits to 3 of the villages with ties to Nickelsville. LIHI is creating a Site coordinator position to likely be filled by a resident of each village. Code of conduct to stay the same. No alcohol, no drugs… Georgetown is not changing to a low-barrier camp. Case management services will continue to be provided. The intent is to increase housing and employment outcomes. LIHI has been concerned about the frequency and number of barring events. Disciple should meet the infraction. LIHI has had issues with a lack of transparency about barring and penalties.

Camp Second Chance has a site coordinator who is a resident of the camp, as well as at Interbay.

How to Improve Outcomes: Weekly meetings, self-help, democratic decision making and self-management. The intent is to replace Nickelsville Staff with LIHI Staff. LIHI will continue to pay insurance and be the Management Agent and Provide Services. LIHI is committed to increasing rate of housing placement among village residents. Housing units are opening up and village residents should be preparing for housing opportunities through case management assistance.

LIHI will not be paying for Nickelsville Staff anymore. Flyers were put up by LIHI letting residents know that they are welcome to stay. Nickelsville staff may have removed those flyers. The impression was that residents were made to believe they have to leave the village.

LIHI wants residents to refine a code of conduct for themselves.

LIHI has removed Nickelsville out of the management plan. LIHI is in the process of interviewing and hiring a site coordinator to facilitate democratic decision making.

Question… are residents part of the hiring committee?

Initial hire will be temporary hire. Imminent hire is likely. Site Coordinator will be a temporary hire and then post the position for a permanent hire for the permanent position. Applications have been accepted.

Peggy from Nickelsville expressed concern about the Management Plan. Nickelsville provides a System of Checks and Balances. Concern that LIHI will not replicate the checks and balances

Barbara Hill posed a follow-on question to LIHI as to whether there is any reconsideration for moving forward with a MOU between LIHI and Nickelsville…

Sharon Lee feels there should be greater barring leeway, and has wanted to know under what circumstances residents have been barred? Sharon shared concern that there has been no response to this question for over a year.

LIHI is not willing to entertain mediation with Nickelsville.

Barbara Hill expressed a frustration of the CAC… CAC has done the best to stay on top of all of the communication regarding the MOU and management plan arrangement. The CAC is committed to supporting the village. There has been a lack of ability to all parties to communicate consistently and effectively. The CAC is interested in hearing from each entity about what the plans are for addressing homelessness for those on the street, in a shelter, in transitional housing, and moving people into affordable permanent housing. The CAC urges all to keep their eye on the goal.

Bill Oliver offered an observation that there seems to see a fundamental difference in how LIHI views the village from how Nickelsville views the village.

Sharon Lee responded that LIHI views tiny houses as a bridge… temporary housing. There are affordable housing options. The intent is not to have people in a permanent state of staying in a tiny house.

Bill Oliver asked if there is permanent housing available.

Sharon Lee responded, yes. Buildings are opening up. Some residents of villages are refusing to participate in the process to prepare for eligibility and support into permanent housing.

Barbara Hill asked Georgetown Village residents if they want to respond

Hattie Rhodes responded that residents are not discouraged from pursuing case management. Housing options are few and far between. Residents have often been swept and are feeling stable and secure in the village.

Scott Harris, LIHI Case Manager, shared that people get beat down in this society. He sees that there is a desire to stay. Residents have to be brave enough to look to permanent housing as a achievable and worthwhile goal

Sharon Lee shared that LIHI is philosophically opposed to Rapid Rehousing,… the paying of rent for 3 months with no guaranteed source of funding for the 4th and future months.

Scott Harris shared that 2 years of transitional housing is a standard, if permanent housing is available

A Village Resident in attendance request a job center in the villages in order to increase the amount of time residents can pursue employment

Scott Harris shared that he provides resume help and job search assistance to residents

A Village Resident in attendance shared that transportation to school is a challenge.

There was discussion that transportation assistance is possibly a volunteer opportunity.

**Georgetown CAC Questions for City of Seattle Human Services Department**

Barbara Hill asked what the plan is for Georgetown village in the next 6 months

Jackie St. Louis from Seattle HSD responded that a 6-month extension has been permitted for the Georgetown Village. The city is evaluating the model of villages. The city is looking at models to extend, downsize, or maintain.

Barbara Hill shared the value of the village is a private space where residents can get a good night sleep with a lock on the door. The community building aspect of what goes on the villages is invaluable. Villages provide a model of building community and allow residents to be in a situation where they can rebuild trust in other people.

It was shared that the Tiny House Village Mode provides rare access to the general public to the villages to establish direct one-on-one relationships between permanent residents and tiny house village residents experiencing homelessness.

Jackie St. Louis share the city follows a policy of Do No Harm. It is important to be mindful that sometimes advocates drown out the voices of those experiencing homelessness. The city promotes an empowerment model. Building community is good, however, it is also important to develop agency and autonomy in individuals.

Jackie St. Louis shared hearing from village residents that contracts had been misinterpreted by Nickelsville staff. The City position is to prioritize the well-being of the residents of the villages. There has been gross misrepresentation of the truth. A deadline was imposed. LIHI holds the sole responsibility of liability at the villages.

Heated discussion ensued between city of Seattle staff and Nickelsville staff

Barbara Hill asked about how the group is going to move forward to communicate and listen to each other.

Jackie St. Louis shared that there must be a balance between building community and Do No Harm

Barbara Hill encourage the city to look at Village Model or self-governing model. Combing city, private, non-profit, volunteers, as is done at successful social service operations elsewere.

Jackie St. Louis reiterated the DO NO HARM approach. People experiencing homelessness have been traumatized. City will not perpetuate harm.

The question was posed to the City of Seattle about what is process when there is a complaint about an operator of a Village by resident or other party

Jackie St. Louis shared that upon complaint, city staff collect documentation, investigate, and take action.

Barbara Hill asked about what the city is doing in addressing the needs and concerns, regarding planning for the those that live around homelessness. What is HSDs plan regarding engagement process.

It was shared that City of Seattle Department of Neighborhoods collaborates on this

Tom Van Bronkhorst, Department of Neighborhoods, shared that DON is addressing broader issues of homelessness in the City beyond than the sanctioned camps like long-term parked RVs and unsanctioned encampments. What do residents want to see as possible outcome so that is meaningful for them? City of Seattle DON and other departments will convene at end of summer. There will be a community meeting.

The Six-month extension of the Georgetown Village began at or near the end of March and will end at or sometime around the end of September.

**OPERATIONS REPORT**

53 adult residents, 1 child, 17 pets

1 family recently got housing

1 permanent bar in last 30 days for behavioral issues, spanning 6 months, moved to TC3, Bryn Mawr

6 move-ins

Some tiny-houses recently finished and move-in ready

4 medical 911 calls

1 911 call for panic attack

Weather turning nice and gardening has begun. Wood for planter boxes will be appreciated. Dirt will also.

LIHI has 3 planter boxes that can be delivered

Monthly house inspections occur. Structural issues are identified, working smoke detectors are confirmed, hording issues are identified, infestations addressed, peer-to-peer mediation. Hording issues have been improving. Awning is under construction for grills.

Barbara Hill asked the Village Residents about how they are feeling? Housing at risk? Concern for future?

One resident responded that they were not informed that change of management happened and are concerned about the future of self-management.

Josh Castle, LIHI, shared that Self-Management is not changing

One resident shared that they have been comfortable with self-management. They have purpose in life now. They want to show support. They are concerned about their housing.

Josh Castle shared that LIHI put up notices and attempted to attend community meetings

One resident shared concern that the barring process is being taken away from residents by new management plan with LIHI

One Residents expressed that they would like residents to cooperate with LIHI staff around barring

Barbara Hill suggested parties involved should come up with an agreement to discuss barring

Jackie St. Louis shared that letters have been provided to residents of villages informing that no one is losing their home.

Josh Castle shared that no one is losing their housing. Please contact Josh if they are concerned about their safety and stability.

One Resident shared that as local leadership in the village, they want to put a little input and resolve the situation. They feel they are looking in on from the outside of this process.

Barbara shared that this is a learning opportunity for both sides (LIHI and Village residents) to work things out

**Progress / Case Management Report: Scott Harris**

1 Family moved out last week (3 people) permanent housing

Bought a bed and a crib

Couch and kitchen supplies to be purchased

Couple in need of supportive housing

1 new job was acquired

A Couple citations being paid to facilitate getting driver licenses

4 people have had phone service set up

Prescriptions getting picked up

Bought a pair of steel toed boots for resident’s job

Bought tools

Eyeglasses are being delivered

Last three folks moving in have claimed reach referrals without reach referrals

Plenty of liquid and some food donations recently

**SPD Report:**

None

**Public Comment/Questions:**

Sharon Lee proposed a meeting of LIHI with residents. Jackie St. Louis requested that DHS be present.

There is no longer a lock on the front gate, however someone is required to let others in from the inside

Dispute about whether a copy of the income and expense report was sent to Nickelsville from LIHI

The meeting ended with consensus that all involved should talk to each other

**Next Meeting:**

Tuesday, May 14th

**Adjournment: 5:56pm**