

Nickelsville Georgetown Tiny House Village
Monthly Meeting Minutes of the Community Advisory Committee

St. Vincent de Paul Conference Room

5972 4th Avenue S Seattle WA 98108

Tuesday, July 11th

Advisory Committee members present: Erik Maus, Kelly Welker, Barbara Hill, Bill Oliver, John Phillips

Community Members and additional Stakeholders Present: Scott Morrow, Courtney O'Toole, Colin Ayre, Jessica Niewohner, Josh Castle, Paul, Marian Ahmed, Karen Ko

Meeting Convened at 4:00pm

Introductions and Reports from CAC members

Erik Maus welcomed all to St. Vincent de Paul invited those in attendance to two events in the near future
Pea-Patch at Oxbow Park could use help with planting from Nickelsville community members

There is a need for benches and planter boxes within the Nickelsville community, John Phillips will check with the YouthBuild program at South Seattle College to see if they are in need of construction projects.

The Georgetown Community Council will not be meeting in July or August. Their next meeting will be the third Monday of September.

Kelly Welker will be responsible for delivering the Georgetown Gazette to Nickelsville Georgetown Village (NGV).

Vote on last meeting minutes

June's meeting minutes were approved as submitted

Report on Nickelsville Georgetown Operations

Courtney O'Toole reported the following Demographic information about Nickelsville Georgetown:

52 adults (29 men, 23 women), 9 children, 3 families, 11 couples, 7 pets

Paul reported the security related activity of the past month

7 permanent bars for conduct: 3 domestic violence, 1 drug overdose, 1 theft (overturned), 1 return of barred individual, 1 violent act

Courtney O'Toole reported on internal Nickelsville events and activities

Sawhorse structures developed at event

A family of seven has moved in

The community celebrated Independence Day with a 4th of July Barbecue

A Major League Soccer film crew was on site to gather footage for a project

The Georgetown Community Council (GCC) made a visit to Nickelsville Georgetown

There was a Seattle Times article written about Nickelsville Georgetown

The Kingdome and Queendome (overflow housing) are complete and operational

External Report and Community Comments

Bill Oliver reported an incident involving a guest of a Nickelsville Georgetown resident parked in a parking space reserved for the businesses across the street. When a United Refrigeration employee suggested the car be moved, the driver revealed a knife in a manner that was considered threatening. The police were called.

It is unclear if the Seattle Police Department's (SPD) designated Georgetown Community Officer is away from work or the community duties until the end of September, or if the officer is presently active in the role for the summer.

It was stated that the Aero Motel may be presently operating without a business license

Scott Morrow requested that complaints or concerns of Georgetown community members regarding activity in or around Nickelsville Georgetown Village be directed to Scott so that he can address the concerns and be aware of calls made to SPD regarding Nickelsville Georgetown

There was discussion about calls being made to SPD alleging residents of NGV had climbed over the fence on to the Boeing facility and out onto the Tarmac of King County Airport (Boeing Field). This may have been a prank call, series of prank calls, or the conduct of individuals not affiliated with NGV.

Tax the Rich tax was approved by Seattle City Council

Mobility Survey of Georgetown has been put out for community input and comment

The relocation of other sanctioned encampments in Seattle are being planned, specifically Ballard and Interbay

A review of the initial sanctioned encampments report is in process

There are advocates who support allowing encampments to stay in place longer than the previously agreed upon two years. Future encampments may be able to open with longer agreements with their host communities or neighborhoods.

Report on Village Development

There is a desperate need for wheelchair ramps in NGV. There is currently 1 resident who uses a wheelchair.

Recent maintenance projects are complete

A pressure washer is needed for NGV cleaning and maintenance

Major construction in NGV is complete

Community tents (Kingdome and Queendome) are not full to capacity

The proper channel for moving into NGV is through the REACH Referral process, typically individuals who have been swept out of non-sanctioned encampments

Case Management Report

Marian Ahmed reported that 10 NGV residents have been enrolled into the RISE program which assists individuals eligible for Basic Food Education and Training (BFET) with employment readiness

The cost of living in Seattle results in the majority of NGV residents who are being housed are relocating to Tacoma or moving out of state where Section 8 units are available or where family members can provide housing

The case management program focuses on securing housing, employment assistance, and signing residents up for healthcare

Information on Village Gate

The initial plan and agreement with local residents and business was to only use the western gate on the south fence of NGV after the construction phase. The eastern gate was to be permanently locked. The eastern gate has proved to be useful for accessing porta-johns by the pump truck and other utility activities. There have been no reported issues or concerns with the occasional opening and utilization of the eastern, secondary gate. The majority of foot traffic and daily operational access utilizes the western gate.

Bill Oliver commented that his concerns about the safety of NGV residents in proximity to the hundreds of cars and large trucks that access the Boeing facility and use the road in front of NGV have been relaxed with several months of occupancy and few if any traffic related incidents.

Discussion on Volunteer Opportunities

Some previous discussion during reports from CAC members portion of meeting

Public Comments and Questions

Courtney O'Toole reported that there is a need for youth focused programming in NGV during the summer months when the kids are out of school. There are currently 9 kids living in NGV ranging in age from 7 months to 13 years. Summer camp style programming would allow the young people to stay engaged in learning and entertained while giving their parents opportunities to conduct daily NGV business, work, and take care of family matters. Liza from LIHI may be a resource to help with this. Arts and crafts supplies would be helpful to keep the kids active. The kids have asked for a play area. Kelly shared that the Georgetown Playfield has a spray park for the kids to visit on hot days.

Karen Ko from the Seattle Department of Neighborhoods recommended that NGV apply for a grant from the city to assist with the cost of youth programming. Up to \$5000 may be awarded for neighborhood projects and programs. Kelly Welker offered to help with the application, paperwork, and website.

Three names were put forth as possible replacement CAC members to fill the vacancy created with the resignation of Emilie Shepherd. They are Mary Enslow, John Bennett, and K.C. Steiner

Meeting Concluded at 4:55pm

Next meeting: Tuesday, August 8th at 4:00pm, St. Vincent de Paul, 5972 4th Avenue S Seattle WA 98108