**Northlake CAC Meeting Minutes**

**December 17, 2019   5:00pm**

**Gift of Grace Lutheran Church**

**NEXT CAC MEETING: Tuesday January 28, 5:00 pm, Gift of Grace Church**

CAC: Jami Fecher, Jordan Schwartz, Wendy Barrington, Ed Mast

Residents: Jenna Kuenzi, Kirei Mei Johnson, Hana Lake, Alex Finch, Sean Smith, Kris Ingersoll

Nickelsville: Scott Morrow

Guests:  John Dalton

***[NO LIHI STAFF WERE PRESENT. NO EXPLANATION WAS GIVEN.]***

# NORTHLAKE RESIDENTS REPORT:

*[presented at meeting by residents and then emailed by Nickelsville staff:]*

CENSUS Report since last CAC Meeting by Hanna

22 ADULTS.  12 Men  10 Women  5 Couples

2 Children 2 Families 2 Pets

NO POLICE CALLS

2 Move Ins      3 Move Outs       No Bars

LIHI has mostly been offering lateral transfers to LIHI Corporate Tiny House Villages, to Martin Court that isn’t permanent housing, and bus tickets out of town.  Some people are afraid and stressed out, and are taking these offers – that’s their right!

Some people have also taken tickets to leave town.

As soon as we can clean the bed bugs out of Tiny Houses of departed residents new people move in.  We make sure they know what they are getting into!

DAILY ACTIVITIES IN THE VILLAGEreported by Kirei

The Drum Circle continues on Tuesday Nights.

Camp Meetings continue every Monday at 6 PM

Bus Tickets are being Issued Daily

FOOD reported by Jenna

University Food Bank is bringing us food every Wednesday, and we can specify what kinds of things we want.  It includes milk, which is outstanding.  The Ballard Ladies come last Saturday of the month and the second Friday.

The University Sunrise Rotary Club keeps sending over breakfast once a week.  We appreciate very much the food from Amazon, and the dedicated volunteers who bring it.

Since the press began covering the threat to consider us trespassers, we have been getting a lot more support.  This includes many more food donations.

COMMUNICATION WITH LIHIreported by Alex

Around 12/2/19 the LIHI Case Manager came to his Office and appeared to clear it out.   This was around the same time he came once or twice to help a resident move to another LIHI Corporate Village.  We haven’t seen him in camp since, or any other LIHI Case Managers.

There was no good reason why the Case Manager ever left.  It is false that we barred the case manager.

We did nothing that would warrant him not coming.

We still want a case manager on site.  We do want to know who they will be before they show up – that’s common courtesy.

The case manager schedule that was sent us a month ago was never kept by the LIHI Case Managers.  They only showed up the Thursday and Friday two weeks ago.

## SUPPLIES AND LIHI

We hot water has been acting up.  LIHI and others have tried to fix it, and it works, sort of, now.  The bed bug sprayer has come more often.  He never sets appointments with Staff, which causes confusions.  Supplies have gotten to us.    Our last request was on December 8.  Our staff per will send in another request on Friday – he has been running behind in making requests because of all the threats of trespassing and other chaos.

## BED BUGS

We will keep cooperating with LIHI on bed bug treatments, but they need to communicate through email to [staff@nickelsville.works](mailto:staff@nickelsville.works).  We must insist on that so there are no misunderstandings.

We still wish that LIHI would tell us in writing how to prepare for bed bugs, and how to prevent bed bugs.

We would like materials that would prevent the bed bugs o start with like diacanateous earth and bed bug traps.  We would also like to know, in writing, what chemicals are being used.  We’ve been asking for written information since February.

## LIHI FOLLOW UP TO NOVEMBER 18 THREAT TO CONSIDER NORTHLAKE RESIDENTS TRESPASSERS ON DECEMBER 9.

LIHI has said nothing to the Northlake Residents in writing since this threat.  Villagers have seen general email posting from LIHI saying that Northlake is remaining open and that they are leaving their things for now.  We have seen what the city says about them too.

We have said over and over we would do what our written agreements said we do with HSIS if LIHI asks our staff person to resume this, but they hadn’t asked.

COMMUNICATIONS WITH LIHIreported by Kirei

We have seen HSD Staff at meetings that Gift of Grace Church has had with the Deputy Mayor.  They haven’t approached us directly since the last CAC meeting.

Sean disclosed

## FUTURE PLANS

On November 18, the weekly camp meeting reaffirmed and wrote down the following day three key points in response to what LIHI has been threatening:

1)  The Village will remain open past December 9

2)  The Village is not refusing to let people move out to what they choose.

3)  Any open houses will be filled as soon as they are available.  So many need them who have nothing.

This resolution fits in to what we would like to see in the future.  We have asked the Mayor in writing, and testified to the City Council, that LIHI should be found in violation of their Services Agreement at Northlake and fired.  That has happened.

We would then like a Religious Encampment Sponsor – and we know that Gift of Grace Lutheran Church would be willing – to take over the camp sponsorship.

VISITS TO CITY HALLreported by Hanna.

Before the last CAC meeting Northlake Residents had visited aides to Sally Bagshaw, Kshama Sawant and Theresa Mosqueda.  We talked to Councilperson Herbold directly.

At the last Wallingford Community Council Meeting we made a quick announcement about what was happening at the Village.  New City Councilperson Alec Pedersen was there.  He was surprised to learn that the Village was full, and that hardly anyone had moved into permanent housing.  We said clearly that while people were leaving, few were going to permanent housing.

We appreciated Councilperson Pedersen dropping by Northlake THV the next morning and talking to us.  We look forward to meeting with him more formally.

Councilperson Sawant started a letter campaign to Mayor Durkan.  The letter is in your packet.  Within a week it had gotten over 2,200 signers and most of those had signed before the second meeting Pastor Fecher had with the Deputy Mayor.  At the last Budget Hearing Councilwoman Sawant said it would be “egregious” if we were swept and arrested, and that her office would be there with us.

Last week some of us went to a City Council Meeting on December 9 to call for an end to Winter Evictions.

At the Meeting with Deputy Mayor Moseley and Pastor Fecher the Deputy Mayor was clear that he expected Northlake to shut in March, and that he wanted Case Managers in the Village.  He was also clear that the property LIHI believes is theirs could stay.  That is all great and excellent news, but there were not a lot of details to go along.

COMMUNITY SUPPORTreported by Sean

On December 8th we had a community celebration.  Several ministers, man community people, people from stop the sweeps, musicians, and others were there.  We made tacos and there were very brief remarks.  It was the next day that we had worried that LIHI would ask for our arrest.

Now we are working with Gift of Grace Church.  We are getting ready to have a clean slate with them on January 1st, 2020. And expect that day to be the end of LIHI’s involvement in operations.

That is when HSD told LIHI they should be gone by.  LIHI or another agency will be welcome, of course, to have case managers on site in 2020.

Nickelsville has confidence that the same kind of agreements that other churches have worked out with property owners can be worked out with the City of Seattle for the Northlake land.  We hope everyone calls on City Leaders to figure out a way that Gift of Grace doesn’t have to pay over $5,000 a month rent for the land we are on.  That would be ridiculous!

Nickelsville is preparing fund raising, maintenance changes, and an environmentally sensible bed bug cleaning regime starting on January 1st.

We have a strategic planning workshop set for December 29th as part of all this.

Alex read the statement that we approved last night that we hope explain our perspective:

***"Nickelsville will keep any agreement that GoG makes with the City.   That doesn't mean we've rejected out of hand staying past March 21st if it becomes possible.***

***Nickelsville will accommodate case management by whoever is doing it.  Case management should be done respectfully and without threat of taking over self management.  Nickelsville Northlake residents have and will provide access to Northlake Village and will work respectfully with Case Managers.  We do expect case managers to refrain from threats of take-overs, arrests, closures and interference in self management.***

***We will appreciate it if the Tiny Houses, hygiene trailer, and kitchen tent are available through March 2020 and will make sure they are used and treated responsibly.  We will certainly help clarify actual ownership of different things that are at Northlake now.***

***Deputy Mayor Moseley's offer of helping find  future sites for Nickelsville Northlake and/or the residents who wish or need to continue with the community in the future is greatly appreciated.***

***From Nickelsville's perspective it is incomprehensible how a solution to the problem of Gift of Grace having to pay City Light over $5,000 a month in rent can't be found.  There are so many better ways to solve homelessness than such a payment from a Church to a City Utility.  We call out for leaders to help solve this problem.***

***Given what we heard from Deputy Mayor Moseley, and Gift of Grace's willingness to work out challenges, Nickelsville and Gift of Grace Church have drafted a preliminary contract between us on on how Northlake Tiny House Village will operate.***

***We are confident that once the City has provided, and Gift of Grace and Nickelsville has been able to review, requested information about arrangements that HSD has with Non-Profits operating Tiny House Villages it will be possible for Gift of Grace and the City to come to terms on Gift of Grace’s sponsorship of a Tiny House Village under Seattle's separate religious encampment ordinance."***

## DEATHS OF HOMELESS PEOPLE SINCE THE LAST CAC MEETING

Women in Black stood on December 11 for 8 more deaths of homeless people outside in King County.  They will stand tomorrow for one more, and the next Wednesday for at least one more.  That brings the total to 108 people that we know of that have died either outside or by violence in King County.

In your packet is an invitation from the Women in Black to their Solstice Vigil this Saturday at 4:20 PM.  It will remember all the people who have died outside or by violence in King County.

# CASE MANAGER’S REPORT:

***[No case manager was present and no report was received by email or otherwise.***

***As noted above, the case manager appears to have cleared out the case management office at the village site.]***

**OTHER TOPICS:**

• Confirmed that Northlake Village expects LIHI to continue delivering services through the end of its contract on December 31, after which Nickelsville – under Gift of Grace sponsorship -- will assume responsibility for all operations and services. Their understanding is that LIHI has agreed to leave the tiny houses – which LIHI claims to own – for the extra three months. Nickelsville has already created a budget for operational costs and fundraising.

• LIHI might also offer case management services. Nickelsville and residents are also examining other case management service providers. Residents are concerned that LIHI’s case managers have not abided by their own promised schedule recently, and even before that have not kept appointments, have refused to abide by agreed protocols, and have “treated residents with contempt".

• Alex reports that the hot water heater stops working when the weather is below freezing.

• Jami reports that a letter from Jason Johnson, director of HSD, does not reflect anyone else’s experience of the meeting with the Deputy Mayor.

• Jami reports that Gift of Grace is planning to enter into an agreement with Nickelsville, which has already been drafted; that Gift of Grace does not need any agreement with the City except permission to use the piece of land; that once the Land Use permission is in place, Gift of Grace will make an agreement with LIHI about the use of the tiny houses and the sanitary trailer. Neither Gift of Grace nor Nickelsville are expecting any city funding for the operation of the village from January through March.

• Jami reports that neighbors have stated willingness to pay the rent to Seattle City Light, but all agree this would be unjust, unnecessary, and set a bad precedent for other neighborhoods and faith organizations that want to help with harm reduction measures in the current crisis. The so-called rent is nothing but accounting from one city office to another.

• Scott and residents repeatedly affirmed that Nickelsville and Northlake Village want case management for residents, and Nickelsville is examining options for bringing in that service. Sean added that the current service system has become impossibly convoluted and difficult to navigate, so case managers have become increasingly important; but residents were very concerned when LIHI case managers were being made to act as spies for LIHI instead of doing case management for residents.

• Several residents have been avoided by or ignored by LIHI case managers. Some residents tried to contact case managers but did not receive calls back. Scott stated that case managers were working with some residents over the last month, though mostly not onsite.

• CAC members present discussed how CAC might change when the village is operating under the religious ordinance rather than the City. This discussion will continue, and a next meeting was set for January 28.

**NEXT CAC MEETING:**

**Tuesday January 28**

**5:00 pm**

**Gift of Grace Lutheran Church**