

Othello Village Community Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes: April 21, 2016, 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm

A. Introductions:

In attendance:

From LIHI – Sharon Lee, Josh Castle, Monica Joe, Charese Jones

From Nickelsville – Scott Morrow, Lyle Jones, Kelly Lyons, Jeffrey Hirsch, Andrew Constantino

From City of Seattle – Jenny Frankl (DON), Frank Nam (DON)

From CAC: Dick Burkhart, David Chen, Mary Downs, Brian Mack, Mercedes Summers (not in attendance: Pastor Ed Choi, Linh Thai)

B. Purpose of CAC, City Requirements and Perspective

For each of the three City of Seattle sanctioned encampments, there is a requirement that the encampment operator establishes a 7-person Community Advisory Committee. Each CAC member should represent a different stakeholder group/perspective. This group is responsible for advising on encampment operations, identifying strategies for handling community complaints/concerns.

C. History/Background

Originally, the City sited seven potential sites for the three City-sanctioned encampments. The first three sites to be utilized were in Ballard, Interbay, and SoDo. The SoDo site, because of its proximity to electrical lines, proved to be unfit/unsafe for an encampment site. Meanwhile, LIHI had acquired two properties in the Othello neighborhood with intention to develop as affordable housing. LIHI proposed that this site be used as the third encampment while they are waiting for funding to be secured and design approval (at least two years). City approved this plan.

LIHI is the property manager and provides case management services. Nickelsville is the site operator.

D. Progress of village development

There are currently 20 tiny houses, two containers (to be used for housing) and 16 tent platforms on site. There will be 6 to 8 more houses coming in May. In addition, there is a kitchen tent, a community tent, and access to showering facilities (based on schedule through apartment complex on site).

E. Case Manager Reports

Stephanie Endres is the case manager for Othello Village. She is currently assisting several residents with getting documentation (SSN, IDs, etc).

So far, she has connected:

- Two residents to Veteran Affairs services
- Two residents to Union Gospel Mission summer programs/mentoring
- Two residents to employment (one person full-time, and the other part-time)
- Family of three into permanent housing
- Seven individuals into a shelter
- Two kids into Seattle Public Schools
- Two more families will move into permanent housing in May (one family with Section 8 pending)

F. Updates from Nickelodeons

On March 8, the camp started with 14 people. It currently serves 49 people. Of which, there are seven families and nine kids. One-third of the camp attends school full-time or works at least half-time.

This is a self-managed camp, but they will be bringing on a site coordinator in May. There has been one safety issue so far, where they did have to ask one resident to leave. Where did they go? When people get barred from the camp, they are not allowed in other Nickelsville sites. Typically, other residents are able to referred barred residents to other services/places to go. LIHI also provides case management and follow-up to those individuals.

Part of Nickelsville contribution to the community is a regular community service hours that they require from their residents (i.e. litter pick up). They also intend to participate in the Southeast District Council regularly.

Some of the projects that are currently in the works:

- Building 8 garden beds
- Filling up their hot meals schedule (where different organizations assist in providing meals)
- Re-building their security shack (open 24-hours)
- Getting transit passes (combo of bus/rail)
- Building a wooden fence on the Renton Ave S side of the village

G. Action items for next meeting

- Mercedes will ask her husband to design a website for the Othello Village CAC that will help track activities and keep neighbors informed. This site could also host a 'wish-list' for items that would be useful for residents
- Mary will report out CAC updates at the SEDC meeting
- Nickelsville will attend next SEDC meeting
- Establish Neighbor Communication Plan: Dick will share with 500+ contacts, Brian will share with New Holly Listservs, David will share with businesses, Mercedes will share with Station residents, LIHI will share with community members who attended the meetings in Feb & Mar, Jenny will also share her list of Othello contacts with Frank (who will be the City rep for this group)
- Jenny will provide more clarity about Adopt-a-Street program, as it relates to Othello Village

H. Scheduling of tour and next meeting

Meetings will be on the *THIRD* Thursday of the month from 7:00 – 8:00 pm @ the Station at Othello Park Apartments. The next meeting will be on Thursday, May 19.

Josh will send out a doodle poll to plan a CAC tour of the Othello Village. The preference among CAC members would be to do this on a weekend.

I. Questions/Discussion