

## **Othello Village Community Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes**

**Date / Time:** July 21, 2016, 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm

**Location:** The Station at Othello Park Apartments, 4219 S. Othello St, Seattle, WA 98118

### **In attendance:**

- From Low Income Housing Institute (LIHI) –Josh Castle, Dee Dixon
- From Nickelsville – Scott Morrow, Melissa, Jeff Hirsch, J.R. Omher
- From City of Seattle – Frank Nam, Department of Neighborhoods (DON)
- From Othello Village Community Advisory Committee: Pastor Ed Choi, David Chen, Brian Mack, Geneva Ross-Lyons (sitting in for Mercedes Summers) (not in attendance: Mary Downs, Dick Burkhart, Linh Thai)

### **Othello Village**

Address: 7544 Martin Luther King Jr. Way S., Seattle  
Phone number: 425-615-0800

### **History/Background of Othello Village**

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 the electrical lines, proved to be unfit/unsafe for an encampment site. Meanwhile, the Low Income Housing Institute (LIHI) had acquired two properties in the Othello neighborhood with the 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). The City approved this plan. LIHI is the property manager and provides case management services. Nickelsville is the site operator.

### **Othello Village Community Advisory Committee**

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

## **Minutes of Meeting**

### **1) Introductions**

### **2) Progress of Village Development**

- a) 28 tiny houses have been completed
- b) 2 more tiny houses are a possibility
- c) Village is almost at capacity at 75 people

### **3) Updates from Nickelodeons / Othello Village residents**

- a) Development of children's play area is almost complete
- b) Vegetable garden is thriving at the village
- c) No 911 calls this month
- d) Many outside groups are providing meals
- e) The village hosted a community birthday party for people in the month of June
- f) A medical bus comes once a month
- g) New bathroom and shower to be installed soon thanks to a donation from Paul Allen
- h) Organizations that are helping Othello Village
  - i) Urban Impact: <http://www.urbanimpactseattle.org/>
  - ii) Othello Park Church
  - iii) Emerald City Bible Fellowship: <http://www.emeraldcitybible.org/>
  - iv) Holly Park Community Church: <http://www.hollyparkcommunitychurch.org/>
- i) Tour for visitors from...
  - i) Idaho, Michigan, Virginia Tech,
  - ii) Japanese TV
  - iii) Local neighbors
- j) Connectco Medical Group is offering services
- k) Village residents are phone banking to support the upcoming City of Seattle Housing Levy: <http://www.seattle.gov/housing/levy>
- l) Residents are working on getting Light Rail tickets. Some Metro bus tickets are provided from LIHI.

**4) LIHI Case Manager Reports**

- a) 61 residents
- b) 7 families
- c) 16 kids
- d) 10 pets
- e) Dozens of people have transitioned out of the Village
  - i) 6 placed in permanent housing
  - ii) 2 in transitional housing
  - iii) 9 people barred from the camp for violating rules

**5) Action items for next meeting**

- a) Grant from Paul G. Allen \$75,000 to LIHI / Othello Village.
  - i) To buy supplies for 8-10 tiny houses and to help provide a facility for plumbed restrooms and showers
- b) Website planning for the Othello Village – working on domain name and management

**6) Upcoming Events**

- a) Othello Park Festival booth - August 14, 2016, noon – 6pm  
<http://othellopark.org/2016-festival>

**7) Questions/Discussion**

- a) How many calls does the village get a day? Village gets 10 - 20 calls a day to see if there are any openings
- b) Are there any homeless people that show up at the Village to inquire about placement in a tiny house, get turned away due to full capacity, and then go and sleep in the neighborhood? Most do not show up in person at Othello Village to inquire but call instead. There is no person we know of who has shown up, was turned away, and then slept in the neighborhood.
- c) What are options for Village residents to register to vote? Registration forms are at the Village and at LIHI. Residents could work with other non-profits to secure an

address for voter registration to receive their ballot and vote. They can register at LIHI's address for example – 2407 1<sup>st</sup> Ave, Seattle, WA 98121 – and then come to pick up their ballot (please notify Josh Castle of anyone who does this so we can watch for it). There is a ballot drop box outside the New Holly Library nearby.

- d) What is the criteria for entrance to Othello Village?
  - i) Families need to go through LIHI - Call them or apply on the LIHI website: [www.LIHI.org](http://www.LIHI.org)
  - ii) Screening through Sex offender list
  - iii) Call the Othello Village phone number (425) 615-0800 to inquire about availability
- e) How do I donate to Othello Village? Wish list on Nickelsville website: <https://sites.google.com/a/nickelsville.org/home/how-you-can-help>

### **Next meeting August 18th**

### **Resources**

- a) Low Income Housing Institute (LIHI) website – [www.lihi.org](http://www.lihi.org)
- b) Article on Othello Village opening - <https://lihi.org/2016/03/08/othello-village-tent-city-opens/>
- c) Nickelsville – [www.nickelsvilleworks.org](http://www.nickelsvilleworks.org)
- d) Othello Village wish list <https://sites.google.com/a/nickelsville.org/home/how-you-can-help>
- e) City of Seattle - Homeless information- <http://murray.seattle.gov/category/homelessness/#sthash.YZISNPIC.dpbs>
- f) FAQ on Seattle's response to Homelessness - <http://murray.seattle.gov/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/11.2.15-Homelessness-FAQ.pdf>