

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

Minutes from September 15th, 2016, 7:00pm – 8:00pm

### **Nickelsville Othello Village Homeless Encampment contact information**

- a) 7544 Martin Luther King Jr. Way S, Seattle
- b) (425)-615-0800 Village Phone; (206)-450-9136 Nickelsville Staff
- c) [Othello@nickelsville.works](mailto:Othello@nickelsville.works)
- d) <https://sites.google.com/a/nickelsville.org/home/>

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

Originally, the City sited seven potential sites for the three City-sanctioned homeless 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, 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 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.

### **Minutes of the Meeting**

#### **1) In attendance**

- a) From Low Income Housing Institute (LIHI) – Josh Castle & Brad Gerber.

b) From Othello Village & Nickelsville – J.R., Kelly, Gale, Andrew & Scott.

c) From Othello Village Community Advisory Committee: Dick Burkhart, David Chen, Geneva Ross-Lyons. (not in attendance: Pastor Ed Choi, Mary Downs, Linh Thai , Brian Mack).

d) From the Department of Neighborhoods: Frank Nam.

## 2) Nickelodeons (residents) Report

a) Village Census given: 74 Residents, 53 Adults, 21 Children, 12 Families, 15 Pets.

b) Village feels full now; flexible capacity due to children/families.

c) No emergency calls this month.

d) Kids Plus has been a huge help to families at Othello Village; bringing clothes, diapers & other needs. Kids are being enrolled into school/daycare programs.

<http://www.kingcounty.gov/depts/health/child-teen-health/moms-plus-kids-plus.aspx>

e) Village resident Structure Master has built bunk beds for Tiny Houses with children as well as a dual purpose bike-rack/toy chest.

f) Recent focus on winterizing the village (Tents & Tiny Houses). Experienced residents have been a big help with ideas.

g) 2 more Tiny Houses to be placed soon.

h) Bicycle Police have been seen patrolling the area near Othello Village/Park.

i) Litter-Busters ongoing by residents in the neighborhood.

j) Referral Forms are now being used when an in-person or by-phone inquiry must be turned away (due to the village being full). Anonymous information collected (demonstrating need) and other options for the inquiry are given.

k) More food donations than ever are being brought but steady prepared meals would be wonderful.

l) CAC member Dick Burkhart offered picking of Italian Plumbs by residents; TASTY!

m) Health Department visit and reported mainly concerned about rodents and storage of food; the village has begun taking steps to address these issues.

n) <http://www.alleycatproject.org/> has been live-trapping local feral cats, providing them with needed healthcare and finding homes for some; much appreciated.

o) September 28th is Nickelsville's 8th birthday! Considering party plans.

<https://www.facebook.com/nickelsvilleworks/>

p) Diabetics at camp need a medical fridge to store insulin; looking for a donation.

q) New shower trailer up & running; residents are very happy; Kiro7 came to film its opening!

r) Road to Nickelsville Filmmaker visits all 3 villages; shooting footage & doing interviews.

s) Barb Poppe gives her report to City Council; Othello attends and gives a statement.

t) Residents have been getting housing; a mother of 6 who represented Nickelsville at last CAC meeting here is one of them!

u) Thanks to Pastor Ed! He has donated so much time; counseling residents and bringing stuff for children as well as starting the breakfast ministry every Sunday.

v) Miss Kelly (here tonight) attends County Council meeting on transit and gives a statement in support of increasing the allotment of discounted bus tickets to service providers.

w) Mobile Medical Van has visited twice so far; helping residents find primary care providers.

x) Othello Leadership is now doing patrols around the area including the park after a complaint was reported of (possibly) residents drinking in neighborhood.

y) Nickelsville Othello Village is receiving at least 10 calls a day from homeless folks in need.

### **3) Progress of Village Development**

a) Possibility of a new community trailer (12x60) being discussed. Could provide some comfort in the coming winter months.

b) Shower Trailer has arrived; Ralph from LIHI is trouble-shooting to gain higher water pressure but already it has been a great addition.

c) Volunteers chomping at the bit to do more!

d) Tours continue local, national & international!

e) Kids have been using "TV Tent" as play room until a larger one can be placed.

f) Residents participating with Transit Riders Union September 20th at County Courthouse; TRU is seeking a \$5 pass for low-income/homeless Seattleites. <https://transitriders.org/>

g) General sense of community at the village is growing!

h) LIHI is looking for land for new villages; plenty of Tiny Houses on hand.

#### **4) LIHI Case Manager Reports**

a) No case manager present; residents report Nickelodeons getting housing finding employment at a steady pace.

#### **5) Questions & Discussion**

a) What is the average length of stay at Othello Village?

i) it can vary greatly; some residents have been there since the village opened in March; others are only there a few days before moving on to other options or housing.

b) Who decides where a new village might be placed?

i) Land is the barrier; future villages are more likely to be on Faith Based property. The question of where from LIHI & Nickelsville's perspective is based more on *who* can provide the land. LIHI is working towards finding new options for sites.

c) Local business owners have concerns that the village may draw more homeless individuals to the area but be unable to accommodate them creating an added burden on the neighborhood. How can this be addressed?

i) Othello Village is now using referral forms presenting anyone turned away with other shelter options which should discourage them from remaining in the immediate area.

ii) Additional outreach to the local homeless may help; providing information with better, safer options for them than sleeping on the streets.

iii) Contacting with the Community Police Team (possibly with Detective Cookie's help) could help; perhaps with the new bike patrols in the area some of these issue will be solved.

iv) King Plaza business owners could collectively hire on site Security for safety concerns.

#### **6) Action items for the next meeting**

a) Update on contact with Community Police Team to address business owner's concerns,

b) Report on Outreach through new Referral Forms on site.

## 7) Resources

a) Low Income Housing Institute (LIHI) website – [www.lihi.org](http://www.lihi.org)

b) Nickelsville website – [www.nickelsvilleworks.org](http://www.nickelsvilleworks.org)

c) Nickelsville Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/nickelsvilleworks/>

d) Transit Riders Union - <https://transitriders.org/campaigns/low-income-fare-campaign/>