**DRAFT MEETING NOTES – CAC REVIEW/APPROVAL PENDING**

**Othello Village Community Advisory Committee (CAC) Minutes**

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| CAC Name: | Othello Village |
| Date: | 11-21-2019 |
| Meeting Location: | Le’s Deli and Bakery |
| CAC members present: | Dick Burkhart, Eliana Scott-Thoennes, Jesiah Wurtz |
| OV residents present: | Ashley Roberts, Bill Corpening, Sean Smith, Tim Pizeder, Travis Grantham |
| Nickelsville staff present: | Marvin Futrell |
| LIHI staff present: | Chris Brand, Diane Miller, Jose Ruiz, Josh Castle, Sharon Lee |
| City of Seattle staff in attendance: | Shawn Neal |
| Members of the public in attendance: | None |
| Note taker: | Eliana Scott-Thoennes |

1. **Introductions, community norms;** **2.** **Public Comment:**  None
2. **Updates from Othello Village Residents:** 
   1. Tim: “the donation coordinator said the problems at Othello Village have stopped him from getting to do donations because he’s been filling in on securities. He thinks he will now be able to get back on track.”
   2. Bill: “The Tiny House Village is going smoothly – there are a lot of new people!”
   3. Travis: “I know what it was like when I first got here” [from Camp Second Chance] & how it is now is a big turn around. “[We’re] not at the end result, but it is going well for how it was at first.”
   4. Sean: The camp meetings have been being held inconsistently. There was no meeting on the 12th . Last week was alright. On 10/28 some residents put in a request for overnight visits. “this was supposed to go to Ralph Neis for a clarification – we haven’t heard back yet” At that meeting it was announced that security shifts were returning and residents agreed on two kitchen heads.  
        
      It has been restated at meetings that LIHI staff will not retaliate against Nickelsville strikers. This has not been retracted either in writing or verbally, but some people on strike have been threatened with bars.  
        
      “We haven’t heard any updates on religious sponsorship. We want 1 week notice if the Pastor (a LIHI board member) wants to visit camp.”  
        
      “There have been around 40 intakes in 5 weeks. LIHI has done a good job filling the camp, but some of these appear to be coming from Billie Jean at the Parks Department. Staff had promised that Billie Jean would not return because of her treatment [of some residents] [This is] retraumatizing to campers.” [Sean reported seeing or hearing of her being in camp at least three times in the previous month.]  
        
      “Two LIHI staff are living on site. Mixing volunteer security with paid security is a little confusing.”  
        
      “We had asked that new houses be filled by seniority, but this is not being taken into account.”
   5. Ashley: “No update on taping meetings residents have in camp. “HSD claims tiny house villages are shelter and there’s no right of association.”  
        
      “The family with trouble with their kids left.”  
        
      “No updates on sobriety and pot smoking in camp”  
        
      “LIHI rules are not being enforced.” “It’s starting to be a low barrier camp”  
        
      “Kitchen and food are improving”  
        
      “A couple was barred weeks after an enormous quarrel”  
        
      “Several long time campers moved out because of low barrier conditions.” “We won’t identify them because they fear retaliation.” “Less than 20 people are still in camp who were here in April. Less than 10 of those who left [including long term and more recent campers] moved into permanent housing”
   6. Tim: “Having LIHI security on site has been so peaceful. We are finally becoming a village, things are changing miraculously. I’m glad to be a resident”
   7. Sean: Nickelodeons, including elected leaders from Othello, and supporters testified at several City Council meetings, have met with Council members Herbold and Pacheco, and CM Bagshaw’s aide asking for Nickelsville to be allowed to [officially] take over Northlake and for residents who wish to leave Othello to be given the use of city land in this neighborhood to use for 2 years. Both have religious sponsors available.   
      “We’re not interested in living in an encampment being flooded with swept campers.”  
      “We will not recognize rules until there has been mediation or we are given our own site.” “the city supports the right to strike and unionize, they need to support those rights for homeless people too.”  
      “This is my last Othello Village CAC meeting.”
3. **LIHI Site Manager Report:**
   1. Residents: 32 men, 14 women, 9 couples, 3 families, 8 children
   2. Move ins: 6 couples, 2 families, 5 children
   3. Move outs: 4 men, 2 women, 1 couple, 1 family, 6 children
   4. 0 police calls.
   5. 2 permanent bars for habitual domestic violence
   6. 2 empty family houses
   7. The fencing repair is complete with new panels and a new gate
   8. Conditions of grounds:   
      No litter or cigarette butts are visible, no pet waste present, trash is bagged, recycling is being separated, visible pets are leashed, rats are visible & there are traps are set. Condition of pathways = good, cleanliness of bathrooms= good, condition of kitchen= good, condition of laundry room= good, security, donation, and visitor logs are current & complete.
   9. Response to some resident comments: request for overnight visits was denied by Ralph Neis. The faith-based sponsor is True Vine. The Parks Department is doing some of the intakes and referrals, which is why Billie Jean has been to the village 3 times in the past month. “This is not a low barrier camp. We are taking in good, responsible residents committed to doing securities.” “If conditions are so deplorable why are you still here?”
   10. The rats seen have been enormous. Chris wonders if they might be too big for the traps in place now and plans to get larger traps.
   11. Operation Sack Lunch continues to deliver meals daily between 3-4pm. Warming trays are being used, as reported last month.

**Clarifying questions:**

Q1: “Are you aware there are rats running wild in the kitchen?” “should set traps under the food. And there should be more traps”

Q2: Dick shared that someone outside Third Place Books recently asking for donations to feed people at Othello Village. He wanted to know if Operation Sack Lunch takes donations like this?

A2: Josh will look into it and report back.

1. **Updates from Case Managers**
2. We got to meet Diane – who has had a conflict with this meeting time in previous months- and welcomed her to the CAC!
3. The expansion of the village, adding 12 houses, and the new office are done. An addition, part-time case manager has been added who works from the new office inside the village and is able to be available for some evening hours to accommodate tenants who work.
4. It has been very busy, with a lot of new faces, but going very well. The site is organized and clean and people are going about their business.
5. The family that exited was two adults and 5 children to transitional housing. One challenge has been the lack of resources to help furnish their new home. Union Gospel Mission’s warehouse was nearly empty. [The chair offered to work with Diane afterwards to help arrange community donations for the family]
6. Another family that moved out had been kept homeless because of a judgment against them for debts to a previous landlord. However, most of that debt was illegally assessed legal fees and the case managers were able to challenge those and get the debts cleared and the family moved into housing.

**Clarifying questions:**

Q1: “Are still doing work with people to expunge records? I know a couple of people who could use help.”  
A1: “Yes!”

1. **HSD Updates on Food Safety Guielines**Shawn Neal reported that the village are to follow FDA food handling guidelines. He agreed to send a link to the chair to be shared with the CAC Google group.
2. **Tiny House Village legislative update**Sharon Lee joined us to share some update about upcoming legislation. There are two budget items voted on by the Council in budget committee for which the final votes will be on Monday.  
     
   Both are budget adds to fund new tiny house villages, but they were amended to be able to be used for enhanced shelter as well. “These should be Tiny House Villages. People want THV, not shelter. Contact Council members…get family and friends to get back to council: prioritize tiny house villages not, enhanced shelters…. Tiny house villages have better outcomes than even enhanced shelter.”  
     
   Sharon added a few other updates: Rev. Willis wants to meet with CAC, we need to add more people to the CAC to bring us up to 7, Lifelong & LIHI are collaborating to offer housing vouchers for people 50+ and/or with disabilities, LIHI is starting a THV in Tacoma, and the new one in Olympia (9 houses) will open Monday
3. **Remarks by Chris Brand(site manager) to Sean Smith**

“Since this is Sean’s last meeting… For the record: you have been a valuable asset of information and resources I have been able to absorb. Thank you for keeping me honest and fair to villagers. I hope you and Nickelsville get the recognition you deserve for your valuable work”