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

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

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| CAC Name: | Othello Village |
| Date: | 05-09-2019 |
| Meeting Location: | Le’s Deli and Bakery |
| CAC members present: | Dick Burkhart, Eliana Scott-Thoennes, Jesiah Wurtz, Mary Hackney |
| OV residents present: | Sean Smith, Faith Ivey, Dylan McDaniel, Allen Martin, James Williams, Ashley Roberts, Earlie Spruell, A. Lopez |
| Nickelsville staff present: | Marvin Futrell |
| LIHI staff present: | Cierra Brown, Josh Castle, Bradford Gerber, Chris Brand |
| City of Seattle staff in attendance: | Lisa Gustaveson, Tom Van Bronkhorst |
| Members of the public in attendance: | Cliff Cawthon |
| Note taker: | Eliana Scott-Thoennes |

1. **Introduction and discussion of the April minutes.**   
   The minutes of the April meeting were reviewed and approved with one objection, which was addressed via email afterwards.
2. **Public Comment:**  Cliff Cawthon, a local activist and college professor, thanked the chair for the invitation to come listen to the meeting. Wants to support residents.
3. **Updates from Othello Village Residents:** 
   1. Census: “accurate numbers unknown by community, now kept privately by LIHI.” “We have seen new, single people moving into formerly family units” and “new people and people with little seniority moved into tiny houses ahead of people with more seniority in tents.”
   2. Number of bars is not known. Nickeksville elected leaders and others have received notices of “abandonment” of their tiny houses for not signing in daily that said “in 3 days anything left would be bagged and tagged and their tiny house given to someone else. [a copy of one such notice was shared with the CAC]. These have not been rescinded. They have been reported to HSD, but not response has been received yet.
   3. Keith, the ticket master, has been handling out bus tickets daily
   4. Food: Operation Sack Lunch has been delivering a meal daily. Setting up this service was asked for a year ago, and a number of times since, but did not begin until “the day after the occupation began”

Some spoiled food was thrown away by both LIHI security and campers, but “none of us have seen anybody deliberately throw away good food” or heard “anybody encourage anyone else to to trash the kitchen, litter, or lie about the condition of the food”  
LIHI security has been seen eating village food, but no Nickesville staff members have been seen doing so.

* 1. LIHI has attempted several Tuesday night meetings to which they have brought takeout food.  
     The first three had a lot of conflict and strong feelings and not many attendees.  
     LIHI “attempted to sequester people in small groups” but were told that wasn’t a community meeting, it was “divide and conquer”.  
     The most recent meeting, on the 7th, was chaired by Sean Smith (external affairs coordinator). 9 paid LIHI staff attended, about 15 adult campers, and 1 Nickesville staff member (who did not say anything during the meeting)  
     Campers shared their complaints of mistreatment and disrespect from LIHI staff, especially one LIHI case manager.  
     LIHI shared a flyer and “tried to persuade us to stop striking and negotiate with them individually”.  
     Sean said he told LIHI that harm had been done by the “bum rush” and “occupation” and that LIHI needed to make that right before any other conversations could happen. And they needed to do that by engaging in mediation with Nickelsville.
  2. There is now a new refrigerator, new canopy, new TV in kids’ tent, and new kitchen lighting
  3. Paid security is not doing Litter Busters, which used to be part of security shifts. They have been seen sleeping during their shifts. The grounds look much worse now. Security now locks and unlocks the showers when people want to use them. “we don’t watch ourselves the way you watch us.”
  4. LIHI threw away all the donated clothes and a donated tiny house
  5. Most tents are going to be taken down. LIHI case managers say this is ordered by the Fire Marshall due to proximity to LIHI apartments, but nothing in writing has been shown to residents.
  6. Women in Black stood yesterday for one person and will stand next Wednesday for ten. Marvin (NV staff) shared a few words about the woman being remembered and her history in the community.
  7. 5 people from the village attended the council committee on homelessness. 4 of them testified. Bruce Gogel said that HSD has “failed to visit the camp” in the way they claim to and “failed to investigate any of the dozens of complaints about LIHI mismanagement which have been brought to them.” [The full text of his testimony was included in a handout]
  8. 3 Nickelodeans met with Council Member Mosqueda. “she promised us that she supports mediation between LIHI, HSD, and Nickelsville, and would work to make it happen.”
  9. 5/5 Simona had her monthly birthday party for children in the camp
  10. 5/8 the Nickelsville Central Committee met at the village. “It was a good meeting”

1. **LIHI Case Manager Report:**
   1. Turmoil and conflict between Scott and LIHI. “a civil matter”
   2. Clients have shared that the situation is causing anxiety and loss of sleep
   3. Cierra said that she has received complaints about Scott Morrow: his snoring disturbing nearby residents, his presence blocking fridge access, and numerous other irritations or inconveniences, including lack of privacy and discomfort using the kitchen tent due to his “constant presence”.
   4. She has also heard reports that residents are being coerced to attend gatherings and are afraid of being kicked out
   5. Recycling pick up was missed twice because trash was in with the recycling. (there were allegations that this was intentional sabotage, perhaps instigated by Nickelsville staff)
   6. There is trash on the ground and being thrown on the floor of the kitchen tent.
   7. 9 move outs to transitional housing – 5 kids and 4 adults
   8. 4 new men and 2 new women in the village (which includes 1 couple)
   9. 3 empty family houses
   10. New features (listed above in resident updates) were described, as well as the installation of a doorbell
2. **OV Donation needs:** Towels, men’s shirts & pants, shower curtains, shoes. Can be brought to the camp, or to the case manager’s office. James and Eliana will talk about setting up a spreadsheet for donation needs that can be shared amongst our various networks.
3. **Updates on future of the village after 6 month permit expires**:   
   Lisa Gustaveson (HSD) said the city can’t begin considering options until the “turmoil settles down”, but reassured everyone that no one would be kicked out on to the street. Shelter beds would be offered and placement would be worked on ahead of time. Possible options to be considered: continuing the village until the site is built on by LIHI, phasing out the village and replacing with shelters or other options being considered, or setting up another village before this one’s time runs out and transitioning remaining residents over. The difficulties discovered in trying to move the Ballard village were discussed with some disagreement over the context and issues involved.   
     
   A resident asked: “What happens if nothing is in place in 5 months?”  
   Lisa: “We will not put people on the street”. “We are working on other programs and new capacity”  
     
   Sean asked: “where in this process is my community’s input?”  
   Lisa: We will be working with LIHI, as the contract holder.”  
   Sean: “LIHI can’t speak for my community. When will you come talk with my community?”  
   Lisa said she hadn’t felt very welcome at the village in the past, James asked if something could be scheduled and she said yes. She expressed a preference for individual meetings. Some residents objected and explained they wanted a group meeting and to hear from her about the city’s plans.  
     
   Brad (LIHI) shared a flyer that had been given to residents that week describing “existing conditions” and what was needed for “a successful village”. He emphasized that LIHI is very hopeful that the village will be continued. He spoke about the need for cooperation.  
     
   James (OV resident) said that talk about “cooperation” and “compliance” without any give and take wasn’t self-management. He shared the impact “doing our own securities” can have for residents and how significant it was for him as a newcomer in building a sense of community and responsibility.   
     
   Questions were raised about contingency planning by LIHI, should the village be phased out. Brad reassured everyone that contingency planning was happening. He pointed to the successful phase out of Licton Springs where almost everyone was moved to housing or other encampments
4. **Discussion on adjusting meeting length/schedule**

CAC members will meet unofficially in two weeks to discuss this in more detail

1. **Update on communicating with other CACs**The first city-wide CAC meeting was held last month and there was great enthusiasm for continuing the conversations and finding ways to support each other and share ideas. Another meeting will be held in June (date not yet determined).
2. **Wrap-up**The results of the feedback forms for the past two meetings were shared (attached below)

**Next CAC meeting**: 4pm June 13, 2019 at Le’s Deli and Bakery