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

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| CAC Name: | Othello Village |
| Date: | 08-15-2019 |
| Meeting Location: | Le’s Deli and Bakery |
| CAC members present: | Dick Burkhart, Eliana Scott-Thoennes, JesiahWurtz |
| OV residents present: | Sean Smith, Allen Martin, Ashley Roberts, Bruce Gogel, EarlieSpruell |
| Nickelsville staff present: | Marvin Futrell |
| LIHI staff present: | Josh Castle, Chris Brand |
| City of Seattle staff in attendance: | Shawn Neal, Michelle Eastman |
| Members of the public in attendance:  | none |
| Note taker: | Eliana Scott-Thoennes |

1. **Introductions, community norms:** We added a community norm: clarifying questions are to be saved for the end of each section.
2. **Public Comment:**  None
3. **Updates from Othello Village Residents:**
	1. There is a significant amount of resident frustration with the proposed religious sponsorship arrangement with True Vine Church and that a letter was sent to the CAC announcing this was settled when the residents have raised objections. There was a resident-only meeting attended by more than half of the residents [note: a sign-in sheet was included in a packet residents shared with the CAC]. At this meeting residents voted to not accept sponsorship by True Vine. There are concerns about conflict of interest as the pastor is on the LIHI board and alarm about use of the Religious Encampment Ordinance with its lack of accountability and oversight. “Another example of not being self-managed…of being told out voices matter, but they clearly don’t”
	2. A SHARE member-at-large had a personal meeting (not representing SHARE) with Lisa Gustaveson of HSD. He reported that he was told Northlake will be shut down, possibly this month, and that if Scott Morrow is not removed by September, Othello Village will be shut down. This caused great alarm and concern amongst Othello Village residents.
	3. All 11 tents are down and the back 40 is leveled for the next project. The Fire Department did not require this. The last people in tents were pressured into moving, some to shelter off site. No one went directly into permanent housing. “Nickelsville still wants mediation between LIHI, HSD, and Nickelsville before more action is taken with the proposed expansion”
	4. “The bar process has been very concerning. It has been unclear and inconsistent” Residents emphasized that they did not believe this to be the fault of the site manager, but that not having a written description of the guidelines leaves everything unclear. Also the community impact of poor actions has not been being taken into account.

	The example of response to a resident who committed a cyber crime was discussed at length – the harm and fear he caused was felt not to have been considered in the response to his actions.

	Another example where a resident was barred for violence, but remained on site for 4 days continuing to escalate tensions, was brought up. “Protection of residents should be the most important thing. It was irresponsible to leave violent threats to fester as he continued to talk about his military training, etc”
	5. After 2 years of asking for it, a washer and dryer have been hooked up. Residents were told over the years (and this was mentioned at CAC meetings) that the delay was because a new water meter had to be installed, but this has not been done. The current water meter was not inspected either as part of the hook-up.
	6. Residents would like to see the most recent health inspection report from Shawn Neal. Shawn promised to send it to the Google group. [Note: this was done shortly after the meeting.]
	7. Billie Jean, former OV case manager, was seen at the village last week. “This was surprising and shocking to residents, [we] could feel the anxiety of the village rise.” Ralph Neis was emailed and told LIHI should be sensitive to the fact residents feel they’ve been badly treated by Billie Jean.
	At the camp meeting last week, residents were told Billie Jean would no longer be employed by LIHI in about 2 weeks, but there was no clarification about why. Either way residents feel she has not been held accountable for the harm she has done.
	8. Residents are feeling very frustrated and disappointed by the grievance process and lack of timely responses. One said “what is the point of having a grievance process if there is no action? If you’re going to have a process, you need to use it.” At least 4 grievances were submitted before the June CAC meeting, three of those remain unresolved. Some of those have received no response at all.

**Clarifying questions:**
Q1: re 3b: Did anyone double check with HSD to verify the information reported?
A1: HSD is not responding to emails or calls from residents or from Nickelsville, but SHARE verified with Lisa that the meeting took place, described what was reported and did not receive any corrections.

Q2 re: 3h: How many days does the grievance policy allow for a LIHI response? The site manager added that at a more private time he would like to get the names of those whose grievances have not been resolved or have not received any response.
A2: 5 days

Q3 re 3e: We were unaware that the water meter needed to be replaced. Where is it located?
A: Location was described by a resident. Additional explanation: Residents had been told over since a laundry facility was first requested that the increased water usage a washing machine would cause meant that there needed to be a new water meter installed. It is frustrating to learn that this was not accurate since there has been no new meter installed, nor has the existing one been inspected or replaced.

Q4 re 3d: Is there a resident leader position that exists or could be established to head up supervision of wifi hotspots once the library sets them back up?
A: Under the NV system that was the external affairs coordiantor, but there are other, simpler solutions (examples discussed at length)

Q5 re 3d: In thefuture is resident elected leadership willing to help give guidance on accountability issues?
A: If it involves the safety or wellbeing of residents, leadership is willing to give advice.

Q6 (to LIHI) re 3d: What is the scale of behavioral modification being used? Is there an accountability scale or is each case a one-off? Having a written scale available helps defuse misunderstandings.
A: Will follow up later.

1. **LIHI Site Manager Report:**
	1. Residents: 23 men, 13 women, 8 couples, 3 families, 10 children
	2. Move ins: 0
	3. Move outs: 4. (a happy note: the family that moved to the Interbay Tiny House Village just got their housing!)
	4. 2 police calls: explained to CAC, but involve confidential information.
	5. 0 empty houses
	6. The fencing is overall in good condition, but there is a work order in to fix fence after expansion complete
	7. Conditions of grounds:
	No litter or cigarette butts are present in general (but depends on active clean up work), no pet waste present, trash is bagged, recycling is being separated, visible pets are leashed, rats are visible and traps are set. Condition of pathways = good, cleanliness of bathrooms= good, condition of kitchen= okay, condition of laundry room= good, security and visitor logs are current & complete.
	8. Tents are down, will be replaced with 12-14 tiny houses. Leveling is finished, rock in place.
	9. HSD contracts directly with Eagle Pest Control, which is contracted to come monthly, but has not been seen for a while. HSD has been notified.
	10. Chris said this was the first time he had heard the complaints and issues residents shared. He also explained that he was unfamiliar with how things used to be, and that given the strike, leadership and many residents aren’t communicating these things to him. There were some exchanges with residents that made it clear those residents prefer to share their complaints at the CAC meetings where they will be documented and witnessed rather than communicating them directly to Chris or other LIHI staff.
	11. A new case manager office has been installed on site and is being repaired. It will not be staffed 8 hours/day, but as case managers are available.
	12. Extra traps and bait are available from the site manager – lots of rats have been seen, some of them very large!
	13. A donation log was started this month.
	14. There is a work order to replace the junction from the front entrance to the honey buckets. A temporary fix was done, but a more secure one is needed.