

TENT CITY 5 CAC MEETING MINUTES, FEBRUARY 13, 2017

Chair: Pastor Marylyn Cornwell

Note-taker: Janis Traven

Attending: Michele Marchand, Jackie Friedlander, Lyle Jones, Danielle Burt, Janis Traven, Laurie Ames, Stacy Goodall, John Gaines, Niki Amarantides, Libby Stevenson

Minutes from January were approved.

General Updates:

Numbers: 65 residents, overflow is full, all tents filled (about 75 campers/per night, including 2 teenaged children with their family).

Physical Space:

- Propane use has been high. There have been occasional glitches with the supply chain.
- John Gaines (Interbay Neighborhood Assoc) followed up from previous meeting about providing overhead lighting to camp. Best recommendation = get luminaire at hardware store, attach to pole, and plug in.
- Need for new tents; most tents are designed for occasional rather than nightly use.
- Firewood is welcome.

Rat Abatement:

- TC5 is working with LIHI and King County pest control to get rid of rats in the camp. Problem is exacerbated by construction that has displaced rats. Plans in place to place traps, plug up tunnels in hillside, and be more aggressive about storage of food and belongings on site.
- Trash removal has doubled in frequency.
- Request for donations of large lidded containers to store food and other items that are attractive to rats. Also posted to Buy Nothing group.

Community Relations:

- Libby Stephenson introduced as alternate/additional representative from Magnolia Community Council
- Positive feedback from the community continues
- Successful overcoat and blanket drive by Starbucks (> 500 items donated).
- Magnolia Church Support Network thanked TC5 for expanding communications among its member organizations.
- Seattle Symphony provided tickets to a concert as part of their Comfort & Joy: Our Response to Homelessness initiative.
- No complaints have been received/filed.
- John Gaines (Interbay Neighborhood Assoc) reported that the INA has observed “just standard nuisance crime,” not attributable to TC5
- Question raised re: health of campers during the winter. TC5 reported that KC medical van has increased the frequency of visits to camp.

Food & Meals Report:

- Weekend meals are still needed.

Demographics, Successes:

- Campers continue to move into shelter or housing. Updated monthly status report from LIHI was not available.

Permit Renewal Status:

- Permit has been received for occupancy through 11/18/17.
- SHARE/WHEEL reiterated its intention to keep its promised to pack up and leave at the end of the permit extension.
- Discussion, initiated by Marilyn Cornwell on behalf of the Ecumenical Council, about the merits, moral and economic, of maintaining a location that has successfully leveraged community support

New Encampments:

- Stacy Goodall will reach out to Starbucks nearby Nesbit site.
- Over 150 neighbors attended informational meeting about low barrier encampment
- Nesbit site, opening in March, needs 24 hr staffing
- Challenge will be determining how to do leadership training for a low barrier camp.

Priority needs:

- The list was reviewed.
- Batteries and flashlights are the most needed.
- John will look into having the city put in a luminaire pole to add some light to the camp.

Next Meeting:

- 5PM Monday March 6th.