**True Hope Village: Community Advisory Committee Meeting Notes**

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| **CAC Name:** | **True Hope Village** |
| **Date:** | Tuesday, April 16, 2019 |
| **Meeting Location:** | New Hope Missionary Baptist Church |
| **CAC members present:** | Ben Curtis, Jenifer Haner. Natalie Bicknell, Sohroosh Hashemi, Bernie Creavon |
| **LIHI members present:** | Sasha Koeberling, Shelby Henkel |
| **City of Seattle staff present:** | Lisa Gustaveson |
| **Members of the public present:** | Josh Chau, Kieren Nishihata, Jedrzej “Yendrick” Zieleniak |
| **True Hope residents present:** | None |
| **Meeting facilitator:** | Bernie Creavon |
| **Minutes taker:** | Jenifer Haner |

**Introductions**

**Discussion and approving last month’s notes –** February minutes were reviewed and could not be printed and brought to the April meeting. Sasha will follow up to confirm that March minutes will be uploaded (stating that the meeting was canceled) and February will be finalized. Sasha will email the CAC meetings and advised to follow up by a specific date. If no feedback, they will be considered final and uploaded to the City of Seattle website.

**Village management report**

Supply order – Supply order was highlighted as an area of concern in the February 2019 meeting. This task has been added as a chore for the village, so LIHI has been more on top of this task over the last couple months.

Langston Hughes Performing Arts – Langston Hughes has provided opportunities for the village residents to attend shows (free admission) and as also provided Seattle Art Museum tickets. This has been well received by the village residents.

Special Project Manager -- As of April 1st, Shelby Henkel is acting as special projects manager for True Hope Village. Shelby is on her 3rd day in her new role. She is still transitioning and getting to know the residents, however it seem she is already “hitting the ground running”. The village had their first meeting today to introduce everyone. Although Sasha is already orienting, her first official day will be Tuesday, next week. Shelby comes from a different LIHI operated village, so has experience.

New case manager -- There is a second case manager joining Sasha at part time, who also has prior experience with LIHI (LaDonna). Sasha and Shelby believe that this will be a successful setup for the village. They are still discussing how they will split up the work between both case managers.

*Question from community member: The new case manager (LaDonna) has prior experience with the Department of Corrections. Does this mean that the village is NOT high barrier anymore?*

Answer: True Hope will not transition to a low barrier village. Nothing is changing with how True Hope will be managed. According to Lisa Gustaveson (City of Seattle), technically, all of LIHI’s villages are “low barrier”. There is still a code of conduct. Shelby is coming from Lake Union Village and True Hope will be her 5th village. Shelby brings a lot of experience to her current role as special project manager. Shelby has experience in supporting the residents with their backgrounds where they might have legal issues, drug addiction, issues with Child Protective Services (CPS), etc. Shelby can support case management, if needed, in order to support the process for the residents at True Hope. LaDonna was previously in a security role and will now be a case manager.

*Question from community member: Part of LIHI and the City’s communication when the village was announced was that it will not be a “low barrier” site. What do you mean all villages are “low barrier”.*

Answer: Lisa explained that LIHI and the City are trying to move away from using the terms “low” and “high barrier”.

*Question from community member: Based on Shelby’s background, what is meant by allowing residents into the village, even with criminal backgrounds? Does the code of conduct differ for True Hope vs the other villages?*

Answer: The code of conduct should be the same for all LIHI operated villages. As LIHI transitions to manage more of the villages, the code of conduct will be consistent across all. LIHI does allow people with warrants to be residents are the village. Only sex offenders and arson are not allowed. This is the same for all housing, not exclusive to the village.

Concern was raised again by a community member about clothing and debris being thrown over the fence and onto their adjacent property. It was noted that this has only happened a few times. Shelby commented that she is available, and neighbors are invited to call Shelby directly. Lisa will help to make a connection between the Community Police Team (CPT) and Shelby. Lisa will look into the CPT possibly joining a CAC meeting.

*Question from community member: There have been several instances where packages have been stolen off door steps. What can be done about this?*

Answer: There has been somewhat inconsistent staff onsite at the village, however with Shelby coming on, this should improve.

*Question from community member: Does LIHI have cameras on the parking lot?*

Answer: No, however Shelby will talk to her boss about this. There is a camera on the sidewalks. But Shelby believes adding one on the parking lot could help. She will look into the possibly of adding 4 additional cameras. There are already cameras on the sidewalks.

*Question from a CAC member: Do the residents parking have tags for their cars yet?*

Answer: There is a registration form in the village office that has not been consistently used. There was a suggestion to strengthen this. It would be helpful to know if the agreement from Langston Hughes is allowing only the residents to park there or if they are also allowing the general public. It has been confirmed that residents will be allowed to park from 8pm – 8am. It is unclear if others are allowed to park in the lot. Shelby will look into how many residents are using the lot. Shelby will also check with Langston Hughes regarding what policy they have in mind for the future.

*Question from community member: Is there a protocol for abandoned cars? There is a car (Ford Torus) that has been there that is taking up two spaces.*

Answer: Sasha will look into this

*Question from a CAC member to the community: How is the noise in the parking lot going?*

Answer: An adjacent neighbor mentioned that it has been better, Demetrius has taken action when needed.

*Question from CAC member: How is the food issues?*

Answer: No change yet. LIHI was going to switch to Fare Start, but this hasn’t happened yet. Sasha is working on options, but it sounds like this has to come from the higher levels. Sasha isn’t sure if this would come from Sharon Lee as part of a larger LIHI initiative. They are ordering canned foods so that they can better monitor. There hasn’t been a change in the number of complaints about Operation Sack Lunch (no more or less). Sasha and Shelby will look into the possibility of accelerating the change in food suppliers. They will look into finding other places that might be willing to donate. Shelby previously had a connection with PCC and will see if this is still an option. Lisa will follow up with Sharon to see if they can change this quickly. Lisa will follow up with Sasha and Shelby once feedback from Sharon is received. There was also a motion for more salads and healthy foods be offered.

*Question from a community member: Since Lisa works for the City of Seattle (DHS), does the city fund LIHI?*

Answer: Lisa confirmed that the City of Seattle funds LIHI’s program. In addition to other budget items funded by the City, they pay for food as part of LIHI’s budget that is directly approved and funded by the City of Seattle. Therefore, Lisa is able to make changes.

*Question from a community member: What has the collaboration with the churches and the reverends been?*

Answer: New Hope is more involved than True Vine. There is one member from New Hope who is donating food every other Thursday and other members drop off donations to the village. Rev. Jeffery is good about checking in with Sasha. There is less partnership with True Vine. Rev Jeffery visits the village see how things are going. There is a new contact at the Seattle Vocational Institute. Reverend Willis is no longer at Seattle Vocational Institute (he is now at Urban League).

*Question from a community member: Is LIHI able to track all people who exit the village?*

Answer: Sasha uses the database or reach out to people who exit through all mediums possible. The database is not public, since it has sensitive personal information. Shelby can help to facilitate a report for True Hope dating back to the beginning of the village.

*Question: What is the average number of months of occupancy for each home?*

Answer: The average is around 6 months; however, some people have been at the village since the beginning (September 2018).

*Question from a community member: How long is the village planned to stay on site? And if the Reverends are not participating, how do they qualify for exemption?*

Answer: Lisa confirmed that the village is on “religious exemption” so that it can stay indefinitely. Lisa will look at the 2-year lease and will come back to the CAC because she does not believe the village is approved beyond the 2-year limit. Lisa believes the referrals count as part of the exemption and also the church members participation, but this needs to be confirmed.

**Case management report**

1. Houses
   1. 41 Adults
   2. 11 Kids
   3. 55 Total

All houses are occupied at the moment.

1. Demographics – not reported at this CAC meeting
2. Move Outs – 5 total in April.

*Additional details*

There have been 3 referrals sent out in April so far (one in Central District, one in George Town and one in senior housing – all LIHI properties).

**Open discussion**

Bernie gave an update about the health-related activities. They plan to offer a foot care clinic and resident providers will come to support.

There will be extensive renovation on the adjacent apartment building. The residents of the apartment building will need to temporarily related.

*Question from CAC member: Is there a better time for the meeting to get more people to attend? Also, is there a way to get more people from the community to attend?*

Answer: Sasha and Shelby will look into this. Other CAC have been advertised by flyers and posters.

*Question from a CAC member: What is the city-wide CAC?*

Answer: Lisa mentioned that it’s a way to connect. The meeting was initiated by other CAC members.

**Action Items or follow up for next meeting**

* + 1. February meeting minutes – Sasha to finalize, email to the CAC, confirm they are approved and upload to the City of Seattle website.
    2. March meeting minutes – Sasha to confirm meeting minutes are uploaded to the City of Seattle website (stating that the March meeting was canceled)
    3. Connection between Community Police Team and Shelby -- Lisa Gustaveson will help to make this connection
    4. Community Police Team – Lisa Gustaveson will look into the possibly of the CPT joining a CAC meeting.
    5. Cameras in the parking lot – Shelby will talk to her boss about this possibility.
    6. Langston Hughes parking lot – to confirm:
       - With Langston Hughes, who is allowed to park in the parking lot and from what times.
       - What policy Langston Hughes is envisioning for the future.
       - How many village residents are currently using the parking lot.
    7. Abandoned car in the parking lot – Sasha will look into the abandoned Ford Torus that is taking up two parking spots.
    8. Food suppliers -- Sasha and Shelby will look into the possibility of accelerating the change in food suppliers.
    9. Food – Lisa will talk to Sharon about accelerating the change in food suppliers. Lisa will follow up with Sasha and Shelby once feedback from Sharon is received.
    10. Data for people who exit True Hope -- Shelby will prepare a report for True Hope dating back to the beginning of the village.
    11. Village timeline – Lisa will confirm what the 2-year lease currently states and what the plan is for the timeline of True Hope.
    12. Meeting date – Sasha and Shelby to look into other possible dates to allow for more participation of CAC members.
    13. Advertising the CAC meeting – Sasha and Shelby to look into ways to announce the CAC meetings to the community.

**Next CAC Meeting: May 21, 2019 at 6pm, New Hope Missionary Baptist Church**