

Fort Lawton Community Relations Plan
Questions and Comments
May 19, 2008

Note: this document lists only the questions and comments, not answers, conveyed by community members at the May 19 Community Relations Plan meeting.

CRP Process

- Why can't we be involved in the determining the scope and structure of the homeless housing to determine the right mix for the community?
- What is the process to comment on the plan?
- Can we discuss issues to be addressed in Community Relations Plan, then draft a Community Relations Plan to be finalized at the time the reuse plan is completed?
- How many homeless housing units will be on the site?
- Can AHA and YWCA describe the "gist" of programs in the Community Relations Plan (e.g., population, services, staffing, day care, building configurations, unit sizes, etc.)?
- Will there be program transparency?
- How will the Community Relations Plan relate to the Discovery Park Master Plan?
- How will the long-term financial commitment of providers be ensured?
- Maintain a quality of life, many would not buy next to homeless housing.
- What is defined as extreme poverty and would the project lead to a concentration of poverty?
- The Community Relations Plan is an agreement between the homeless providers and neighborhood. The City serves as the facilitator.

Community Involvement/Engagement

- How do we keep the neighborhood and the new development family friendly?
- Provide opportunities for integration of new population with local groups, school kids, etc., and opportunities for local community to get involved in helping with programs.
- Want to ensure integration into the community, i.e., neighborhood kids of all incomes can play together in community areas.
- Encourage local involvement and interaction with churches, community groups, etc.
- Share with/get input on Community Relations Plan from local churches, community groups, etc.

People

- Would convicted sexual predators be housed here?
- What types of criminal backgrounds will potential residents have – violent crimes, felonies, child predators?
- In the case of residents of the YWCA program who are victims of domestic violence – how do we ensure the batterers don't show up at the residence/in the neighborhood?
- What constitutes a Native American elder?
- For the Native American elders, there must be an interface with Daybreak Star. What services can Daybreak Star provide to the elders – e.g., transportation to entertainment and services, culturally appropriate services that will be sensitive to Native American values?
- Clarify if Native American elders include veterans.

- What is the “level of impairment” in terms of mental illness of potential residents?
- What is the level of services that will be provided for the most difficult population?
- Are programs intended to get people back on their feet or just “warehouse” them?

Programs

- Will education and other programs be provided?
- AHA units may need most services.
- What is the level of services to be provided?
- What are the staffing levels?
- Will/can there be on-site daycare?
- What about access to medical services?
- Will on-site services be for residents only?
- What is staff-to-resident ratio?
- Will there be scheduled activities to keep residents busy?
- Will there be transportation to off-site activities?

Management

- Will the housing be clean and sober?
- Can guest policies be set and what are they?
- Will staff be onsite 24/7?
- Will there be enforceable rules? Strict legal policies? Eviction policies?
- Conduct policies relating to “curb appeal” or conduct while in neighborhood outside of housing. Legally-binding agreements signed by tenants which can be enforced as means for eviction.
- Strong, capable on-site managers are essential.
- Who can neighbors talk to if having problems with on-site management?
- Agency must provide a strong structure in regards to staff, policies and enforcement.
- What is hiring criteria for resident managers?
- Can there be performance targets? E.g., limits on level of occupancy until provider reaches certain performance targets?
- If agency (AHA, YWCA) is not working, what then?
- How do we ensure housing units and surrounding areas are maintained?
- Must address potential noise issues.
- Will there be on-site management?
- Can there be a signed, enforceable conduct policy?
- Who will maintain the homeless housing? Who is responsible for long-term upkeep?
- What are the policies for weapons, threats of violence and accusations of sexual abuse in their facilities?
- If someone is making violent threats, engages in physical altercations, or is suspected of committing sexual abuse, how is this dealt with? What sort of action is taken (reporting to authorities/other residents, increased services, eviction)?
- I’m interested in learning how the children who are coming out of abusive situations are supported such that they do not continue the cycle of violence. Are they provided with

appropriate services? If the children also have acted out, are the other residents informed and protected appropriately?

Tenant Behavior Concerns

- Create a response process for dealing with problems.
- How to deal with inappropriate public behavior.
- How to prevent/deal with littering.

Crime

- How do we keep from artificially increasing the level of crime in the neighborhood?
- Increased police presence?
- How do we deal with a possible increase in crime?
- How do we handle increased capacity, crime, drug use, traffic?
- Crime – what if these residents have or know drug dealers...will drug dealers follow them to the neighborhood? Will residents have friends who are criminals who will follow them to the neighborhood? What about domestic violence?
- How do we ensure the quality of life is maintained in the neighborhood?
- What about a stronger police presence/park rangers to keep problems out of park?

Building Security

- What kind of security will there be at housing?
- Will there be security cameras onsite?
- Community input on design of structures.

Building Design

- Community input on design of structures.
- Design review
- What does it mean to be Native American Housing?
- Will there be parking onsite? Don't want parking to overflow into neighborhood.

Schools

- Can/how will school handle increased capacity?
- Can we ensure the children of additional families do not supersede spots for current population in local schools?

Transportation

- Traffic, parking, bus routes to deal with increased capacity in an isolated area.

Planning Process

- From the time the plans are presented to the Mayor, is it a done deal?
- What is the process to comment on the plans?
- Have the agencies provide an overview.
- Infrastructure issues – is there sufficient infrastructure to meet needs of increased capacity?
- Concerned with density – will it be too dense, create an “urban feel” in a mostly single-family, park-like area?

- Infrastructure.
- Will City Council need to buy off on investments needed to make plan work at the time of accepting the plan?
- Will there be low-income rental housing at site?
- What are examples of successful balances of mixes of income-levels?

Misc.

- Keep all of it parks/return to environment.
- It has been heard that Native American elders are resistant to entering these types of housing programs because of cultural reasons – what happens if there aren't enough Native American elders to fill the units? Who fills them then?
- What are “no action” alternatives?
- Will property be public or private?