

Nickelsville Ballard Community Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

November 21st, 2016

Location: Cheryl Chow Court 2014 NW 57th St, Seattle, WA 98107

In attendance:

- From Low Income Housing Institute (LIHI) – Alireza Sharekiam & Arthur Warmoth
- From Nickelsville – Mike Howard, Leo Kay, Andrew Constantino & Scott Morrow
- From City of Seattle – Sola Plumacher & Thomas Whittmore (Department of Neighborhoods)
- From Ballard Community Advisory Committee – Jean Darsie, Kathleen Weber, Martha Dills, Mike Stewart, Eric Nelson
- Also in attendance* – Kate Gregory (Community Member)

Nickelsville Ballard contact information:

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- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/nickelsvilleworks/>
- Website: www.nickelsvilleworks.org

Call to Order & Introductions

Operations Report

A) Resident Updates

- 1) Nickelsville Ballard current census: 22 adults (3 women), 1 child, 1 pet.
- 2) 30 unique individuals stayed at the camp during October.
- 3) There were 4 permanent bars this month.
 - a) 1 bar was for drinking in camp
 - b) 2 bars were for theft from fellow campers
 - c) 1 bar was for refusal to participate in operation of the camp (required).
- 4) There was one emergency call this month.
 - a) A barred camper had refused to leave when instructed to do so by Leadership.
- 5) All new Leadership elected at the camp; learning and doing well.
- 6) 70% of the camp is employed.
- 7) More solar power has come to the camp thanks to Mark Buick & Ballard Rotary Club. This has made a huge difference as the camp was relying on a generator.
- 8) The generator has been down for 2 weeks; hopefully it will be repaired soon.
- 9) George Scarola, the Mayor's director of homelessness, visits the camp. He takes a tour, asks questions & says he is "highly impressed" with the camp.
- 10) Nickelsville Ballard held an Open House November 17th. There were about 35 neighbors & business owners who visited. Nickelodeons offered tours & explained the self-managed operations of the camp. Many of the guests brought donations with them and expressed interest in providing ongoing support. Photographs of the event can be found on Nickelsville's Facebook page.

11) Hot meals are being provided in increasing numbers by local neighbors. More neighbors have contacted Nickelsville about future meals.

12) All steps have been taken towards the renewal including; public notification & the public comment period. All public comments submitted have been responded to and are being provided today for CAC review.

13) The site is clean & well cared for by the residents. Campers continue to do yard work inside and surrounding the camp as well as Litter-Busters on Market St.

14) Interior structures, such as the Kitchen Tent & Donation Shed, are well organized and cleaned on a regular basis by residents.

15) 3 Tiny Houses and 3 Tent Platforms were made available to inspect for the Open House; each was tidy & reflected the character of individual campers having their own space. Visitors were surprised by the order and personality of the units.

16) Mobile Medical Van visits for primary care & gives referrals to local clinics.

B) Community complaint review & response

1) No new website complaints.

2) The last meeting minutes have been posted.

C) Case Management updates

1) 2 Nickelodeons were placed in housing.

2) 1 Nickelodeon died two days after receiving housing. He had a stay in the hospital before moving inside. A long time Ballard resident (almost 80), he had been offered housing several times but did not want to leave the neighborhood he had lived in his entire life.

3) Many referrals to other services have been provided as well.

4) LIHI has provided additional support for move in costs such as furniture.

5) Case Managers look at many options for housing (not just LIHI).

Data Collection and Metrics

A) Discussion by CAC members

1) What information is desired & appropriate?

a) Age, Gender, Household Composition, Employment Status

2) Is Race necessary?

a) The inclusion of race may demonstrate racial disparity in the homeless community & neighborhood in general.

3) Numbers or Percentages?

a) Percentages can help protect privacy in a small encampment.

4) Detail in presentation; the information should be kept accessible.

5) The definition of stable housing is narrow; we should include “exit to what outcome” for a bigger picture of the various ways people leave the encampment.

6) Strong desire for successes besides finding housing.

7) Work towards a Template for each month; Sola will help Kim & Arthur on this.

8) Where do barred campers go? Is it the camps responsibility?

a) A bar from camp is a last resort or used when a zero-tolerance rule is broken.

b) Barred campers tend to return to the places they know & have stayed previously. Lack of options including affordable housing causes unsanctioned camping. People are falling into homelessness at a high rate in Ballard.

c) Referrals for other shelters & encampments are given to barred campers just as they are given to those who inquire in person when the camp is full.

New Business

A) CAC members share information related to Ballard.

- 1) Ballard Bridge is being swept of an unsanctioned encampment.
- 2) Public Comment period has ended for Nickelsville Ballard renewal; each has been responded to.
- 3) Tent City 5 is in the same process but has no definite answer yet.
- 4) Sola sees no further obstacles for renewal.
- 5) Going forward we are committed to provide timely, clearer information. The Ballard CAC has spearheaded providing this information to the greater community.
- 6) Is there anything we can learn from the other CAC groups?
 - a) Interbay CAC is more focused on ways to help the camp directly.
- 7) Public Comment submissions in opposition were FAR lower than a year ago.
- 8) Most are interested in improvements to the site rather than shutting it down.

Public Comment

Q) *Is the family at the camp the same one reported all year?*

- a) Yes.

Q) Do families get priority for placement into housing?

a) Yes but there are roughly 1,000 families waiting for housing & there are often other complications for any given individual.

Q) Does the camp bring new homeless people to the Ballard area?

a) The homeless population in Seattle is growing regardless of Nickelsville.

b) There have been unsanctioned camps in Ballard for many years.

c) Rising costs of living in Ballard have more to do with homelessness than the presence of a sanctioned camp of 25 residents.

Next CAC Meeting will be December 12th, 2016 at 2:30pm

Thank you to Arthur for previous minutes & to Andrew for taking up his mantle.

ADJOURN.

Resources:

<https://www.facebook.com/nickelsvilleworks/>

www.nickelsvilleworks.org

www.lihi.org

<http://murray.seattle.gov/mayor-murray-announces-interim-action-plan-homelessness/>

www.ballardfoodbank.org

<https://urbanreststop.org/about/information/ballard/>