Camp Second Chance Community Advisory Committee Meeting

Sunday October 7 2:00pm

Agenda:

* Intros (cac, panel)
* Mention Trina
* <Skip CAC rpts>
* Camp Report, LIHI Report
* Guest panel – info about Myers Way cleanup activities
* Community questions

Members/Presenters present:

CAC

* Willow Fulton
* Judi Carr
* Grace Stiller
* Cinda Stenger
* Aaron Garcia

C2C/LIHI

* Eric Davis (Camp Manager)
* Richard Horne (LIHI on-site Case Manager)
* Josh Castle (LIHI Director of Advocacy and Community Engagement)

City of Seattle

* Tom Van Bronkhorst (Department of Neighborhoods)
* August Drake-Ericson (Navigation Team manager)
* Lisa Gustaveson (Human Services Department)
* Patrick Merriam and Jon Jainga (Seattle Parks)
* Dan Foley (Seattle Office of Housing)
* Jesseca Brand (Department of Neighborhoods)

Notes:

Skipping CAC updates for this meeting to leave time for guest presenters

**Eric Davis (Camp Manager)**

* Trina, one of the founding members of the camp, recently passed away. She will be missed. (many camp members and advocates were close to Trina, her partner David and their young son, Joseph, who were with the camp when they arrived on Myers Way, and were transitioned to housing in 2017)
* Camp report:
  + 47 residents (13 women, 47 men)
  + 34 tiny houses – 5 more in progress
  + 15 tents left
  + Most houses donated and built by volunteers led by Alki UCC
  + LIHI delivered 2 houses
  + Provided 115 meals at the gate earlier in Sept but that has ceased because there is no one left since the clean up

**Richard Horne (LIHI on-site Case Manager)**

* Working with some residents to reunite with family
* Working with some residents to clean up record, driver’s lic clean up, jobs
* Working to tie in with housing support resources in other areas (north)
* Most vulnerable residents are now in houses and out of tents
* Lihi provided heaters
* Need more refrigerator space
* Need to secure kitchen space (for wind/weather))
* When camps started, contract stated that 90 days was how long the stay in camp would be – many have been there longer – he is working to bring goals back to 90 day but there are challenges with holding jobs - some have qualified for disability

**Dan Foley (Seattle Office of Housing)**

Addressing the question of creating additional affordable housing to ease homelessness

* The office is essentially a bank - makes loans to organizations like LIHI to produce affordable housing
* Need constant flow of affordable housing funding – need is constant
* Buildings are conventional appt buildings
* Building permits can take up to a year
* Q – how many units a year?
  + 900 last year – typical 200 – 400
* Housing for those unsheltered – need services and operating sources in place
* Operating costs are just as high as any other building
* 100 units costs 30m to build – need min 1m/year to operate
* Would be much harder without the housing levies passed by voters
* City is getting creative with making process more economical – making city land available
* Biggest cost is construction cost
* Q – is there effort to mix incomes?
  + Zoning is an issue
  + There is a sighting limit – limit on how many low income units can be in an area
  + They want to have great access to schooling, etc
  + Most of city is zoned single family
* Q – what about buying housing?
  + Some options like modular being explored
  + Because land is so expensive, they want to maximize the area
  + Looking at ways to lease from developers
  + Partnering with non profits is key
  + They are eing challenged to grow
* Q – what are the impacts of HALA
  + There were lots of great ideas
  + Urban villages
  + Upzones are being rolled throughout the city to encourage
* There is a tax exemption available for building with a percentage dedicated to affordable housing - Many developers don’t take it because they make more with market rate – this will hopefully change as more units are created
  + When they pay, it helps fund TRUE low income housing – because the “low rate” is often not very “affordable”
  + Takes about 4 fund sources to fund a development
* Q - Of the 900 funded this year, when will they be availaible?
  + 2020
* LIHI may be able to describe funding structure (Passed to Josh)
  + LIHI will develop housing at Lichton Springs site
  + LIHI Just opened Tony Lee appts on old fire station property
  + Biggest source of funding is in the taxes – federal tax liability
  + Once it’s built, it’s there as affordable for 50 years
  + There are 13,000 affordable units currently – McKinley report says we need 14,000 more
* Q – would changes with how HUD operates impact this?
  + Federal partners are not what they were in past years
  + HUD was working to ensure that units went into multiple neighborhoods throughout the city
* Ft lauden, magnuson park projects are sites where they are proposing housing (working with Solid Ground)

**August Drake-Ericson (Navigation Team manager)**

* Structure of team: 8 officers, 8 outreach workers (REACH)
* Goal: Engage unhoused communities through outreach - empower unhoused people to move toward housing
* Functioning since 2017
* Myers Way activity
  + Engaged for several months to offer services and provide garbage removal and medication services
  + 2 families were moved to tiny home villages
  + Some other population have moved to areas nearby
* Q – South Park senior center seeing increase in needs for services (through meal services, etc) and there are no shelters in the area – what can they do to help people?
  + Can use find it/fix it – “other” option to report needs – it will be forwarded (though this may be slow, it gets it “in the system”)
  + City of Seattle Customer Service Bureau: 206-684-CITY (2489)
* Q – How does nav team work through the challenge of people not accepting referrals to basic shelters (night only - rather than village)?
  + They verify the shelter has availability first
  + It would be great if there were more “enhanced” shelters (where people can stay during the day, leave possessions, etc)
  + Some basic shelters have beds that go unused every night
* Q – what do you need from the community to increase acceptance of help?
  + Influence the idea that it is “engagement” – NOT sweep – encourage to accept the help that’s available
* Q – how does nav team work with someone in high mental health crisis?
  + May choose to leave person where they are so that they can be engaged (not lost)
  + Bring in “continuum partners” that specialize in mental health outreach
  + Have other assessors that can come on
  + If person is “drug involved”, they will work to get them into detox
* Josh: recent city budget proposal would increase Nav team
* They are also increasing assistance in helping people get “diversion” assistance (connection to Housing, transportation back to family, etc)
* Lisa: There are different types of shelters – Overnight, Transitional Housing, Day Centers, Hygiene Centers, Permitted Villages
  + They are collecting data to see what’s helping and what’s not
  + Those in enhanced shelters 5x more likely to move to permanent housing
* Usually takes 6 contacts to get someone to accept help
* Q – on Myers – how many people were contacted?
  + At initial assessment, there were 60 structures, so assumed 120ish people
  + Some structures were storage – final count 60 ppl
  + Reduced to about 40 by the time of the final engagement
  + 2 families were moved into housing (7 or 8 ppl)
* Q – What's a typical day for the Nav Team?
  + Start at 7 – dispatch at 7:30
  + Talk about any prev incidents, plan outreach for the day
  + If there is mental illness, they will bring assessors
  + If garbage is issue, coord with SPU
  + Field coordinator sets plan
  + Once on site, there is a re-assessment meeting
  + Determine what they will go forward with
  + All portions of team must be there or it’s a stop
  + Will store property 90 days if needed
    - If “engaged”, they will keep it until needed
* 5 agencies were involved with Myers way clean up
  + Neighbor commented that it was impressive – organized and efficient
* Q – Where did those that turned down services go?
  + Some nearby - the Nav team knows where they are and are continuing to engage them

**Patrick Merriam and Jon Jainga (Seattle Parks)**

Patrick - Clean up details:

* No work done until Nav team finishes work and clears site
* 12 hour days from 9/24 – 28
* Cleared several tons of debris from the site and from the street
* They have members that watch for anyone coming back into the area – then have the Nav team engage (parks does not)
* Significant illegal dumping sites - probably used for years – not the result of the unsheltered people living there
* Had to use heavy equipment because of slopes
* People go in after
  + Nav team contractors do “bio clean”
* The plan was to do it sooner, but it took longer than expected for services to be available
* Had been on site more than 20 times for planning
* SDOT, SPU and WSDOT all supported effort

John – site activation – natural resources:

* 2 units in crew to support parks team
* Green Seattle Partnership working on restoring over 2500 acres of greenbelts and natural areas by 2025
* Remove dangerous trees
* Some trees are damaged from use and have to be removed
* 5 acres in the current “activation” site
* Mulch installed to cover bare ground
* Erosion control installed
* Removing invasive plants next
* Later in fall, will plant more native shrubs and trees
  + averaging about 1,000 plants per acre, so that means 5,000 plants are planned in this five-acre area.
* That wasn’t the entire work area - WSDOT has 29 acres on the north, the city has five acres to the south, and the city acreage is where Parks is working.
* Looking for forest stewards and community help - contact the Green Seattle Partnership to get involved
* [Jon.jainga@seattle.gov](mailto:Jon.jainga@seattle.gov)
* They are looking at proposals for ongoing activation – walking trails, etc – but if someone sets up camp, they have to stop working
* Q – How can community members deter illegal dumping?
  + Use find it/fix it
  + Blocks installed to prevent access
* Q – where is the specific activation area?
  + South of church is the City property were activation is being done
* Q – What is being done in the WSDOT area?
  + Community should reach out to WSDOT to let them know needs/desires in the area
  + Ed Simpson is contact
  + Keep political pressure on local legislators, since WSDOT is a state agency
    - Local Reps: Eileen Cody, Joe Fitzgibbon
* Q – will public have access to site?
  + Being considered
  + Activation work will be ongoing for 3-4 months

Comment for Nav team:

* There have been some indications that there are some people camped behind C2C
  + NAV team will engage

Eric: Thanks to the clean up crews – it was a lot of work and handled very well

Willow: Thanks to city reps for all their work and partnership on this effort

WSB Coverage: <https://westseattleblog.com/2018/10/what-is-and-isnt-happening-on-east-side-of-myers-way-post-cleanup-and-more-camp-2nd-chance-community-advisory-committee/>