

CAC Name:	Camp Second Chance Community Advisory Committee
Date:	8/27/17
Meeting Location:	Arrowhead Gardens Welcome Center
Call to Order (time):	2:05 pm
CAC Members in Attendance:	Willow Fulton, Cinda Stenger, Judi Carr, Aaron Garcia, Grace Stiller
Permitted Encampment Members in Attendance:	Chris Brand, Michelle, Eric Patterson, +3 others
Operator Representatives in Attendance:	Josh Castle (LIHI), Simon Stephens (Patacara)
Community Members in Attendance:	Numerous
City of Seattle Staff in Attendance:	Tom Van Bronkhorst; Lisa Gustaveson
Recorder/ Note Taker:	Willow Fulton, Aaron Garcia
Previous Meeting Notes Approved:	Yes
Previous Meeting Notes Posted:	Yes

Due to concerns about camp transition status, provided current camp status, as the CAC understands it:

- The relationship between the agency initially contracted to operate the camp (Patacara Community Services) and internal camp leadership has broken down significantly.
- Serious allegations have been raised against Patacara regarding finances, and against the former Camp Manager and another leader regarding abuse of power and harassment within the camp.
- The person that held the Camp Manager position (which was a paid employee of Patacara and also a camp resident) has been fired from that position.
- The two camp residents in question have been removed from the camp by Patacara via "trespass" process.
- Patacara has determined that they are unable to continue to fulfill the operational contract and discussions have been started with the City and other potential operators (namely LIHI) to try to transfer the contract to an appropriate agency.
- Patacara is continuing to provide services to the camp per the city contract.
- Barring a resident from camp currently requires approval from the Patacara Board President

**Josh Castle (LIHI) - Update on operator transition status:**

The contract Patacara holds is transitioning to LIHI Sept 1<sup>st</sup> - details are being worked out. LIHI believes strongly in the Self Management model for encampments, so they expect that to continue at the camp.

LIHI history:

LIHI has been around about 25 yrs - non profit – manages 60 properties in 6 counties - ~2000 units of affordable housing, 3 Rest Stops, 5 existing city sanctioned encampments/village. Has 30 case managers

and numerous resources to assist with temporary tiny houses, employment, housing, education, ID/documentation, Legal issues.

### **Simon (Current Case Manager) - Camp case management update**

3 people to permanent housing, 2 more at the beginning of next month, 4 ready for housing now – just need locations

Need help finding housing:

1 person: has income, can afford \$1000 mo or less – no barriers – needs to be close to busline in Seattle and would prefer no roommates - no

2 people: Have income, can afford \$900 or less – any location – needs to be voucher-friendly

1 person has voucher for up to \$800 mo - anywhere with or without roommates

### **Chris Brand – Interim Camp Manager – Camp Update:**

- Has camp code of conduct available
- Camp operating well – but there are concerns about not having the authority to "police" the camp internally.
- Camp members have been safe
- Irreconcilable issues have come up with Patacara specifically concerning financial donations that were made to the camp
- Looking forward to working with LIHI to determine future management plan
- Needs: Mens clothing; Tents (some are sun-bleached and week); Coffee, creamer, sugar (ongoing need);

### **Lisa Gustaveson – Seattle Health and Human Services:**

Pleased to be able to transition camp contract and ensure the safety and well being of the camp and maintain the partnership with the community

### **Tom Van Bronkhorst – Department of Neighborhoods:**

Is aware of concerns about issues along Myers Way – HPAC (Highland Park Action Committee) has requested a community meeting and the city has agreed – will ensure that all that signed in will receive notification. Will also be available to discuss any specific issues about Myers Way after meeting.

Encouraged community to continue to report issues (See something, Say something)

### **CAC Concerns/Input**

Judi Carr (Arrowhead Gardens Resident)

- No specific concerns with Camp - the transition seems to be getting handled well – just with other things going on along Myers Way

Aaron Garcia (White Center Community Development Association)

- what is plan for transitioning case management
  - A (Josh): Still being determined - LIHI case managers should be able to pick up where current case management leaves off - each encampment has an assigned case manager
- When LIHI takes over, will camp remain drug and alcohol free?
  - Yes - most of the villages LIHI supports are drug and alcohol free - only 1 is low barrier – so if that's what this village wants, that's what it will be
- Will there be a neutral mediation process in place in case a grievance arises between lihi and the camp?
  - The assigned case manager should be aware in order to make sure fair process was followed
  - A (Lisa): if there was a conflict between camp and operator, city will act as mediator to work through issues. Have not had this issue with other camps.
  - Need more case management and housing
  - If a new need arises, a new approach can be tried
  - Camp needs to have good self management/community

Cinda Stenger (Delridge resident; Westside Interfaith Network)

- Will the Navigation team commit to sending only those willing to be drug/alcohol free to the camp? We've heard this has been an issue in the past
  - A (Josh/Lisa): Yes – others should be referred to Lichten springs - Nav team will make an assessment of the best alternative for each person they are referring
- What is the grievance process in other camps? How is dispute and conflict resolution handled?
  - A (Josh): Nicklesville/share rules – bar system at camp – could be temporary (1 day, a few days) or permanent. If they don't agree, they file grievance internally, and LIHI will step in if too punitive or discriminatory – LIHI will then work with camp managers and case managers. Intention is to ensure fair and equal treatment.
  - they have not had to handle a grievance between the camp and LIHI

Grace Stiller (Weed Warriors; West Seattle Resident):

- For LIHI – Weed Warriors has applied for multiple grants and been funded for one to do work in the greenspace around camp to remove noxious weeds and do other environmental improvements with the community at large – is LIHI willing to work with Weed Warriors on weed removal plans as Patacara has?
  - A (Josh): Yes

Willow Fulton (Top Hat Resident, Committee Chair)

- What is the capacity at Lichten Springs – is it at capacity? What happens with the referrals that would go there in that case?
  - A (Lisa): Yes, it is currently at capacity (~70) – there are other shelters they are referred to, and there will be an additional 100 shelter beds at the new Navigation Center that is opening soon. Nav team gets updates daily about what openings there are in which camps and shelters.
- Is the grievance/mediation process going to be more formalized? Part of the challenge with recent issues at camp seem to be that it was not clear who to go to
  - A (Lisa): though city tries not to micromanage the operator, there will be monthly gatherings starting soon with operators to help facilitate answers
  - Willow: CACs could use this kind of collaboration as well
- The road between the Camp and the Park & Ride bus stop is very dangerous to walk due to commercial vehicles, RV campers and debris causing camp members and community members to have to walk in the roadway if they are comfortable walking there at all (many are not). A curb, barrier and sidewalk, with no parking allowed on the West side of Myers would help improve the walking safety, camp security and environmental impact.
  - (Tom): City looking at options for a safer pathway – maybe not a sidewalk, but there are other options
  - (Josh): Contact city council members and officials to let them know about concerns
  - (Willow)The city has a Pedestrian Master Plan that identifies priority areas based on safety and equity. This area is already identified as top priority in both categories. Looking into working with City contacts to see if it would be possible to get curb, plantings, and sidewalk to improve walkability and also protect sensitive environmental resources along that roadway (designated wetlands).

**Public Comment/Questions:**

- Camp Member: Will there be a case manager present at camp and will they be full time?
  - Other case managers are full time – not all are on site but it will be determined

- Camp Member: There is speeding along Myers way often and no deterrents like flashing speed signs as there are in other areas – there are often gunshots from vehicles as well – wondering if CAC is involved with curbing violence and crime in other areas of the city as well.
  - Willow: Flashing speed signs may be helpful idea – will try to work with city on that. Persona focus is on local area – White Center, South Park, UKC, Georgetown
  - Aaron, Cinda: Focused in White Center – where they live
- Chris Brand: How did the city mediate between Patacara and C2C in recent grievance with allegations? Was C2C allowed to speak their side?
  - Lisa: City contract manager spoke with C2C rep (Eric) as issue was unfolding – Lisa also visited camp personally to talk with residents – but there was not a formal city role in mediation
- Aaron: There is a power dynamic between camp residents, Fiscal Agent, City – would city be willing to have neutral entity involved?
  - Lisa: Yes – this is all new and being developed and there could be room to have a neutral party. Keeping the camp permitted on city property is important for the city. Permit is for 1 year, with the opportunity to apply for another year if things go well.
- Grace: CAC very supportive of neutral grievance committee and has members willing to serve on it.
- Arrowhead Gardens Resident: Has been resident for 8 years – wasn't any issues until campers arrived – now there are drive-by shootings – some windows have been hit (5 years ago). Concerns about keeping Camp (Second Chance) secure with drug deals and late night activity
  - Josh: LIHI still understanding needs of this new village and can't speak to issues outside but inside the camp there are secure practices in place to ensure the camp is free of drugs and alcohol. LIHI does have experience working with city officials to help camps and areas around them be safe and secure, so they will be looking at how they can help with that.
  - Camp resident: - no drugs or alcohol are allowed in the camp and if people violate that, they will be barred
- Greg (community member): does LIHI have policies online related to camp rules that can be viewed? And are there any specifics about the rehab and health programs offered?
  - Josh: Case managers work directly with each resident to address their needs (child care, rehab, job services, bus tickets) - does not have specifics
- Greg (continued): How are direct donations to the camps handled – like the houses Right Now Today has already donated?
  - Josh: Donations to the camp go directly to the camp – if houses are donated and built for the camp, they are provided to the camp.
- Camp resident: Why is camping allowed in the woods? A lot can be heard going on that is a concern.
  - Tom: City leadership is aware of the issues - they have been in the area and assessed the situation – is not sure what the status is (on the Sweep list) but can find out.
- When Patacara was selected to be the camp operator, she had concerns about why they were chosen. She tried to get more information and was told to do a records request – also tried to

ask Patacara for financials and didn't get specifics. How does the city and LIHI ensure that money is spent wisely?

- Lisa: The contract between the city and LIHI is monitored by a Contract Monitor – they do not oversee other donations to the agencies – just the money the City provides – and requires the agency to provide information about those finances and outcomes. Those might be provided via the CAC meetings (this is the case in other cases).
- New contract will be signed with LIHI – CAC will ask LIHI to provide this information at the next CAC meeting.
- Liz Giba: Conversations have been focused on Seattle, but North Highline unincorporated area residents are directly affected by issues in and around camp. Invited City reps to come to October NHUAC meeting to describe policing and safety issues in the area (Thursday 10-5-17 – 7 pm White 1243 SW 112th)
- Carol (Myers way resident): Location of camp is a concern because it seems to inadvertently send a message to others that it's ok to camp in the area – would like to see dismantle date and maybe see that fast tracked.
- Simon: Myers way issues should not be generalized – just because some are partaking in illegal or bad behavior does not mean all are. Also, there were people camping in the area long before C2C arrived. It's unfair to tell city to move the people around to a different area – is not "us vs them" – they may have come from your neighborhood. This is a community issue not just a city issue and communities should try to get involved to help – just pushing to another area does not help. Shelters are overwhelmed and affordable housing is not keeping up – we need to advocate for more case management. As far as he is aware, the city has not mediated discussions in the past between homeless and the agencies that serve them – we have an opportunity to do better.
- Chris Brand (for Simon): What were the funding allocations this month for supplies and rental assistance?:
  - Simon: Will answer as best he can as finances are not his role, but he has been able to spend as much as was needed for client assistance so far (work clothes, transportation, housing). This month, treasurer advised that budget was \$1000 for client assistance – Simon asked for that to be increased to \$2000 and that was approved.
- Arrowhaed Gardens resident: Many AG residents feel they could be one step away from homelessness and see C2C as part of their community and want to continue to help with donations and community support. We're all in it together
- Community member: We have a "business" here: getting people help and getting them off the street - in order to do that, a strong no drugs/alcohol policy is needed – will LIHI and the city make a solid commitment that that will be the case at this camp? Also, can LIHI and the City commit to transparency to the community re: camp management and finances?
  - Josh: Yes and Yes
- Eric (camp resident): Re tiny houses – the ones at camp were provided by RNT (not Patacara) what are LIHI's plans for additional houses?
  - Josh: LIHI has houses now that are ready to be placed and people that want to donate and build more – lots of interest. They can probably replace all tents with tiny houses in the near future

- David – community member: has been doing food for C2C and other camps. The city budgets for camps do not include food and City council should include at least one hot meal per day. Until then, individual volunteers help with food – they need "no cook" or ready to eat food (peanut butter, canned soup with meat, etc) - and if anyone wants to cook a meal for the camp, there will be a calendar set up (used to be on Patacara site, but that is down now).
- Chris Brand: Asking city/LIHI if they are aware of who "owns" camp second chance. The camp members are who built the camp and they are filing for 501c3 status themselves.
  - Josh: LIHI understands that there is a lot of history with the camp and camp members – the property is owned by the city, and the contract will be held by LIHI – LIHI will have a co-partnership agreement with the Camp for management.
- Chris: Read letter forwarded from Patacara about access to camp and had questions about why they are able to say that a camp member could not be on site.
  - Lisa: Patacara was the holder of the contract and had the authority to make that decision.
  - Aaron: There needs to be clarity in the power structure and agreement and understanding between LIHI and the Camp – and a clear understanding of when and why LIHI might step in.
  - Willow: These things don't seem to exist now and need to be clearly defined in order to avoid this type of situation in the future. The community, the camp, the CAC need to work with LIHI and the city to help develop a working method.
- Michelle (camp resident): She is in recovery - as a woman, she has never felt uncomfortable or unsafe in camp – camp rules about drugs and alcohol are strictly enforced if anything is found.
- Pat (UKC resident): Wanted to express his anger about how Seattle handles things on their side of the border. Wishes C2C the best – would like to see all members housed per his Operation Fastrack plan and recommendations from Poppe report. Area residents would be more tolerant of the camp if the other issues with the unauthorized encampments were taken care of. Issues with gunfire are a big concern.
  - Willow: these issues are a huge concern for everyone in the area – they are outside the scope of the meeting but we need help from the city to try to improve safety.
  - Tom: The larger community meeting requested by HPAC would be where this can be addressed

Next Meeting: Sunday October 1, 2017

Adjournment: 4:10 pm

Detailed coverage: <http://westseattleblog.com/2017/08/camp-second-chance-residents-get-drug-and-alcohol-free-commitment-from-new-operator-lihi-neighbors-voice-anger-over-the-rest-of-myers-way/>