Licton Springs Village Community Advisory Committee meeting minutes

May 24, 2017, 5:00 pm


Temporary chair: David Osaki

Temporary minute taker: Marni Campbell

Report on Licton Springs Operation:

- Refers to papers connected to agenda
- Opened on April 5
- Not fully set up, but there are 41 residents. Intake, referred by city.
- All houses are full.
- Big dorm tents each hold 10 cots.
- When first opened—helping group self-manage, using tents to take people in at night without a formal intake process. Helped to get to know the locals. Natural thing—if we have space.
- We have gotten word that there is more demand for intake, so have stopped doing overflow.
- Every bed is full.
- “Are you tracking how many people you have to turn away?”
- We are hoping to fill up with referrals and then stage people to get into houses.
- Still hoping for overflow—want to provide space at night for locals. Helps us get to know people in the community.
- Referrals coming from . . . (part of the mayor’s plan)
- “Are you getting heat from the feds? Are these aliens?”
- Low barrier encampment, so we don’t require ID.
- Majority women community at this point. Different than our experience.
- “Do you have numbers?”
- Just a hair over half are women. Usually tent cities are 3:1 men to women.
- Referrals from “sweeps” (trained police officers, outreach groups, sift and decide where people are best suited).
- “You are at capacity or close?”
- Yes, but there is a house getting delivered tonight.
- “What’s the experience like for someone who shows up and there’s no room?”
- We were concerned about that. Originally we didn’t have the problem. To the extent we can we offer ideas of other places where people can go.
- There is tone of people who sleep outside on Aurora.
- “Are we doing something for the homeless around our area?”
- Yes—point of contention if people see the nice houses and they can’t get in.
- We can’t control the REACH referrals. This is a city encampment.
- Elizabeth can tell you that we fought to get an overflow component so that we can take rough sleepers from the area.
• That wasn’t an option initially. Overflow tents as an option. She way to manage the hostility for people in the neighborhood who can’t get into the houses.
• “What do we as business owners in the area—what do we get? Homeless people out of our front yard.”
• REACH did manage to refer some neighborhood folks.

Referral Protocol-Setting
• Disadvantage to overflow—destabilizing to the villagers—like running a sub shelter.
• Showers and power coming next week.
• Still working on meals. Lots of open spaces. What’s involved? Hot meals—preparing and serving. 50 next week, and 60 eventually. 65 maximum capacity.
• Meal brought. Plates and forks can be provided by LIHI.
• Group coming every Tuesday evening—St. Dunstin’s.
• Potential for getting money from the city to contract with a hot meal provider. Will require some advocacy.
• Evenings—but really anything at any time. We have been light on food.
• “Where do people go during the day?”
• Out. They can be there during the day. We don’t monitor. Give everyone two bus passes per day.
• Food bank opening on 130th.
• No cooking facilities in the houses, but there is a community area with a kitchen and propane.
• Two grills. Electricity will be run to the kitchen tent.
• “Do you need more barbecues?”
• We have three right now.
• 20’ by 20’ kitchen and community area.
• “Community refrigeration?”
• Very large coolers and ability to get ice. Power next week.
• Only cold water in the showers.

Village Development and Site Work

• CACs can be a conduit for information transfer.
• House come along without flooring. Getting volunteer parties on Fridays.
• Opportunities to work on site. Always a work in progress.
• Total number of houses is going to be 29, 8’ by 12’. Mixture of different people who build them.
• Schools and pre-apprenticeship programs. Mismatch of different designs.
• Still 5 houses coming.
• Friday 10-3 pm.
• Links—sign-up link gets sent out and can be shared.
• Utilities: Once houses are in place, we can wire all houses. Many are wired but there is no electrical yet. Enough power for heater, computer, phone, light.
• “Donating heaters?” (hot oil heaters—don’t surge, fine for pets)
• Hygiene unit: Showers—will have a washer dryer hookup. Two shower stalls, but no permit until we build a ramp. One of the port-a-potties is accessible. Honey Buckets.
• City doesn’t pay for any of the tiny houses or connection to water, sewer, electrical.
• Had to fund raise through Lucky 7 and Seattle Foundation. Whoever donated during Big Give had a dollar for dollar amount.
• City pays for case management, bus tickets, staff oversight, port-a-potties, trash.
• It seemed that the city was going to be hand in hand. They’re not?
• Human service department—initial budget said so much wood for tiny houses, etc. City said, “take that out.”

Community Relations and Opportunities

• Fair amount of neighborhood interest, some donations.
• Skepticism. However, we pick up trash in the neighborhood. We’ve been making a point of keeping the area clean—getting shopping carts home.
• A dozen needles a week. Do we have containers to put them in?
• HSD and council member’s office (District 5) re. safety concerns. We need a needle drop.
• Needle drop at the commons. The public needs access to the sharps container.
• Neighbors are thankful for trash pick up.
• Business owner has sent benches.
• Tent City 5—people on there that would give us feedback.
• “Has there been an improvement in trash?” (Darryl has been picking up trash for 30 years)
• It’s definitely been better.

Licton Springs Village

• Wall Street Journal covered it. They were in town for the May Day riots that didn’t happen.
• Video just got shown to the San Diego city council.
• Tulalip Tribe chief of police was here today with wellness program, did a tour of the village. Looking at duplicating that on tribal land.
• Huffington Post is going to be doing a tour.
• City has commissioned a study of the effectiveness of tiny houses and encampments. Model is more effective than traditional shelters. High performing and cost effective.
• Portland has a program where residents can apply to have a tiny house built own their back yard.
• “Are neighborhood watch patrols happening?”
• Still working on this.
• Adopt a street sign outside the village. Is someone still sponsoring this section of Aurora?
• Reach out to rotary clubs. Not money, but things (heaters).
• Mercer Island, writing a Global Grant.
• phinneywood.com. Posting notifications about community meetings.
• Share-Wheel—want to hear feedback. Curious about community resources we might not know about right now.
• lictonsprings@sharewheel.org
• Need 29 heaters
  • [WeCount.org](http://WeCount.org). Building is a drop site. Clothes, phones.

**Case Manager Report**

• Do not have a case manager yet for Licton Springs.
• Temporary case manager providing Goodwill vouchers, hygiene items, underwear. Work can be handed over to a case manager eventually.
• People are really open to case management.
• Positions available on the web site. Might be getting meals.
• Facilities and utilities—first house to your right off Aurora is the case management office.
• Been training case managers to do Coordinated Entry.
• 7000 singles on the coordinated entry list. Only 10 rental units available per month. Paying for people to do intake assessment, outreach, with no housing.
• People are sent one at a time. If they’re not ready to be housed then the unit sits empty.
• Encampments are important—we can fill LIHI units without coordinated entry.
• Are you getting qualified applicants for case management? *Not enough applicants.* These are paid positions.
• Federal budget?

**Next meeting:** June 28, 5 pm, 312 NW 85th St.
**Maybe a tour of the site?**