

**Licton Springs Village
Community Advisory Committee Meeting**

Thursday, July 27, 2017

5:00PM

Cate Apartments

312 NW 85th Street Seattle

Community Advisory Committee Members

Present

Rachel Long (DESC Aurora House Manager); Marni Campbell (Robert Eagle Staff Middle School Principal); Kathryn Olson (Faith Community representative, Woodland Park United Methodist Church); David Osaki, Aurora Licton Urban Village (ALUV Representative)

Absent

Darryl Ulskey (Business Representative); Tim Pritchard (Licton Springs Community Council Representative); Elizabeth Dahl (Aurora Commons Executive Director)

1. Introductions

Meeting was called to order at approximately 5:10PM. Those in attendance introduced themselves.

2. Chairperson/Minute Taker

Committee chose not to elect a permanent Chairperson at this meeting.

Temporary Chair: Rachel Long

Note Taker: David Osaki

3. Approval of Community Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes - June 28, 2017

Minutes of the June 28, 2017 Licton Springs Village Community Advisory Committee meeting were approved unanimously, as submitted.

4. Licton Springs Village Operations

Information provided by SHARE/WHEEL included:

- 59 residents in Licton Springs Village (30 males/29 females)
- All but three (3) residents are REACH referrals.

- The camp is basically “full” at this time.
- The 29 tiny houses on the site are all occupied.
- Two (2) dormitories hold ten (10) individuals each, and are mostly full.
- The shower is working great; all power has been okayed, the kitchen is coming along.
- Two (2) individuals have gone into housing.

Licton Springs Village is dealing with certain issues including unauthorized “Pop Up” camping on Nesbit Avenue, Seattle Police Department coordination and meals for residents.

Nesbit Avenue “Pop Up” Camps

There has been an on-going issue of “Pop Up” camps on Nesbit Avenue. These Nesbit Avenue camp activities are unrelated to the Licton Springs Village encampment.

A couple of months ago there was an issue of “Pop Up” encampments north of N. 88th Street. Complaints were received from the neighborhood and the City responded. Efforts to address those “Pop Up” encampments and impacts such as garbage have had some success.

More recently, individuals (ranging from a few to up to a dozen) have been occupying an intersection corner of N. 88th Street and Nesbit Avenue around the clock. The Licton Springs Village staff has been calling the Seattle Police Department non-emergency number. Police to date have not wanted to move the campers along.

The recent activity at Nesbit Avenue and N. 88th Street is much more dramatic than the other “Pop Up” encampments that previously located on Nesbit Avenue. Activities include a recreational vehicle and possibly drug dealing. Those camping on the street are tossing needles over the fence and into the Licton Springs Village.

The City and Licton Springs Village staff are receiving numerous complaints from neighbors about the loitering activity. Committee discussion included:

- Improving lighting on Nesbit Avenue. SHARE/WHEEL mentioned possibly installing a floodlight behind Licton Springs Village that would be directed on to Nesbit Avenue.
- The upcoming opening of the Robert Eagle Staff Middle School, Cascadia Elementary and Licton Springs Elementary at N. 90th Street means about 1,600-1,700 children will soon be in the area attending school. The possibility that “Pop Up” camping will move nearer or on to school grounds was raised as a concern.

- It would be appropriate to convey concerns, including impacts on nearby residents and the opening of the new schools, about the street camping activity on Nesbit Avenue to George Scarola. David Osaki indicated that he would write Mr. Scarola an email, speaking on behalf of himself only, but would copy other committee members so they could add points or clarify points as desired.

Seattle Police Department

Coordination with the Seattle Police Department was discussed. The Seattle Police Department makes occasional “friendly visits” to the Licton Springs Village. However, there have been some issues with the Seattle Police Department seeking entrance into the Licton Springs Village for no clear reason provided to Licton Springs Village staff.

Rachel Long indicated she will talk with SHARE/WHEEL staff and the Seattle Police Department about this issue. Rachel also mentioned, in response to prior discussion, that 911 rather than the Seattle Police Department non-emergency number should be called if needles are being thrown into the Licton Springs Village encampment.

Meals/Food

It was reported that the encampment is in desperate need of food. There was mention that the Navigation Center at 606 12th Ave. S. provides three hot meals a day to its residents, paid for by the City. However, none of the Tiny House villages receive funding from the City for food. The Licton Springs Village encampment would like to get at least one hot meal a day funded by the City.

SHARE/WHEEL is looking for a long term commitment for meals. The CAC was informed that meals were initially in the management plan for the Licton Springs Village encampment; however, funding for this was eliminated. The Licton Springs Village encampment is not receiving City funding for meals.

CAC members discussed the issue and will do individual outreach to their contacts/organizations including, as examples:

- Outreach to members’ individual email lists
- Outreach to religious institutions
- Asking businesses if they would put out barrels for food donations

Organized meals for 60 residents are sought; donations are always welcome.

The impact of the shortage of food is that Licton Springs Village residents are “starving”. Individuals who are older, lack proper nutrition and who also may have medical issues and dietary needs are particularly vulnerable. The difficulty dealing with residents and providing other services when the resident is confronting hunger was mentioned.

Amenities/Offerings/Other

- The King County Mobile Medical van has been making regular visits to the Licton Springs Village, about two times per month, hopefully soon to be once a week.
- A Seattle Public Library system mobile van has been visiting the Licton Springs Village.
- Wi-Fi hot spots may soon be implemented
- Domestic violence issues reported at the June 2017 Community Advisory Committee meeting have settled down.
- During the past month, medical issues have been the main issue. The increase in medical issues could be due, in part, to a lack of food/meals and/or the heat.
- Licton Springs Village staff and residents have seen an artist working on sketches of the Licton Springs Village with the intent of doing a mural on the encampment’s exterior fence. Licton Springs Village residents are interested in input into the any future mural.

5. Site Development

It was reported that:

- Upgrades to tiny houses continue.
- The washer/dryer is awaiting set up.
- Licton Springs Village is looking for a durable heavy duty commercial grill. Grills available to date have been heavily used but are not durable.

6. Community Relations

It was reported that:

- Seattle Fabrics is still concerned about impacts to its business.
- Aurora Rents has been supportive in providing supplies
- Aurora Commons is helping on with trash collection.

7. Case Management

LIHI has recently hired a case manager. There is one case manager assigned to Licton Springs Village. The new case manager has been at the position for about three weeks.

- The case manager has been working on updating case files.

- An accurate roster of residents now exists.
- The case manager has interviewed and gone through 22 case files to date.
- Three (3) residents have been identified for housing.
- Mental health issues are at the cornerstone of many issues. There is a need for mental health counseling.
- Many residents have issues that make them leery of seeking assistance. This makes providing assistance a slow process.
- There are trust issues that require building relationships for certain individuals to accept help.
- Clients have been on the street for a long period of time. They will accept case management when they feel they are safe.

8. Village Needs

Besides food, there is a need for blankets.

9. Other /Comments/Questions/Announcements

Information about an upcoming SHARE/WHEEL silent auction fundraising event was distributed.

10. Next meeting

Rachel Long will contact Josh Castle about doing a doodle poll to schedule the next meeting.

11. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 6:30PM