

Othello Village Community Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

December 15th, 2016

Location: The Station at Othello Park Apartments, 4219 S. Othello St, Seattle, WA 98118

In attendance:

- From Low Income Housing Institute (LIHI) – Josh Castle, Stephanie Endres.
- From Nickelsville – Mitze Buffer, Terry Charles, Andrew Constantino & Scott Morrow.
- From City of Seattle – None present.
- From Othello Village Community Advisory Committee – Genevieve Ross-Lyons, Dick Burkhart, (not in attendance: Brian Mack, Mary Downs, Linh Thai, Pastor Ed Choi, David Chen).

Nickelsville Othello Village contact information:

- Address: 7544 Martin Luther King Jr. Way S., Seattle
- Phone: Village (425)-615-0800 or Staff (206)-450-9136
- E-mail: Scott@nickelsville.works or Staff@nickelsville.works
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/nickelsvilleworks/>
- Website: www.nickelsvilleworks.org

History/Background of Nickelsville Othello Village

Originally, the City sited seven potential sites for the three City-sanctioned encampments. The first three sites to be utilized were in Ballard, Interbay and SoDo. The SoDo site, because of its proximity to the electrical lines, proved to be unfit/unsafe for an encampment site. Meanwhile, the Low Income Housing Institute (LIHI) had acquired two properties in the Othello neighborhood with the intention to develop as affordable housing. LIHI proposed that this site be used as the third encampment while they are waiting for funding to be secured and design

approval (at least two years). The City approved this plan. LIHI is the property manager and provides case management services. Nickelsville is the site operator.

Othello Village Community Advisory Committee

For each of the three City of Seattle sanctioned encampments, there is a requirement that the encampment operator establish a 7-person Community Advisory Committee. Each CAC member should represent a different stakeholder group/perspective. This group is responsible for advising on encampments operations, identifying strategies for handling community complaints/concerns.

Minutes of the meeting

A) Announcements.

- 1) Last week the City announced the locations of 3 new encampments.
- 2) LIHI will be involved in 2 of them with Tiny Houses.
- 3) Nesbit location (possible low-barrier encampment) would open in March.
- 4) Georgetown location will open in January. The City will pay to clean up the site.
 - a) Late January we will set up the houses with volunteers.
 - b) Students in Olympia will build Tiny Houses & the Army will transport.
- 5) Nesbit & Georgetown community meetings held.
 - a) The Georgetown meeting by far more positive.
 - b) What does "low barrier" mean?
 - i) Current camp have strict rules such as sobriety; low barrier will allow residents with active addictions.
 - ii) The camp will not require participation in camp operation & it will have paid staff on site (not self-managed).

c) Would some homeless folks avoid "low barrier"?

i) Yes, such as those in recovery.

6) Nesbit will pull people from unsanctioned camps to something safer.

7) These are the early stages of community meetings & things might change.

8) Nesbit site dealing with misconceptions & negativity.

9) Georgetown community meeting was positive; the main concern seemed to be that it is a noisy location. Firehouse & Airport nearby.

10) Georgetown community excited to help build the camp.

B) Progress of Village development & Updates from Nickelodeons.

1) Current Village census: 52 adults, 8 children, 9 families, 14 couples, 3 pets.

2) Rose Hill Christmas dinner Sunday the 18th.

3) There have been lots of clothing & food donations this month.

4) If people wanted to bring gifts or donations what times are best?

a) 8am – 9pm is the best time to stop by.

5) UGM has been bringing leftovers.

6) Saint Mark's bringing food every Monday.

7) Lots of inquiries about bringing Christmas gifts for the children.

8) Veteran campers have been trying to mentor the new comers.

9) About 40% of the camp is employed.

10) Shower trailer in full use; we have ½ as many Honey Buckets.

a) Campers keeping a close eye on the trailer to avoid over working it.

11) What are the biggest needs at Othello Village?

a) Hand warmers, batteries, gloves, hats.

12) How is everyone dealing with the cold weather?

a) The community areas having heat means more campers gathered in them.

C) Case Manager Report

1) Case Management includes 13 people now staying in motels.

2) 1 placed in full time supportive housing.

3) 2 in permanent housing.

4) 2 in transitional housing.

5) 2 in permanent supportive housing.

6) A family of 4 found transitional housing.

7) A family of 4 found permanent housing.

8) A couple found a transitional unit.

9) A family of 5 returned to Texas to reunite with family.

10) 4 more residents got referrals.

D) Next Meeting will be January 19th, 2016

E) Questions & Discussion

1) Would Dick Burkhart take over as chairperson of Othello CAC?

a) Yes. Josh will contact him with information.

2) Not all Tiny Houses at Othello Village are 'finished' or insulated. Discussion on what needs to be done & possibility of volunteers to help.

3) Electricity coming to Othello Village! The end of January should be done.

a) Is this a must-have at future sites?

4) This winter has been a learning experience.

5) Have there been any issues or fights at Othello?

a) Nothing of note.

6) Discussion about what makes a good CAC.

a) What is Ballard CAC like?

i) More formal.

F) Closing Thoughts

1) New sites means we will need more staff; Case Manager's are getting overwhelmed in work.

2) Brad Gerber will be doing more for LIHI.

3) Let's use the lessons we've learned going forward on new sites.

Resources

www.lihi.org

www.nickelsvilleworks.org

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

<http://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/politics/mayor-murray-to-announce-locations-of-3-new-homeless-camps-in-seattle/>

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