

# Othello Village Community Advisory Committee

## Meeting Minutes, February 8, 2018

**Location:** Le's Bakery and Deli

**In attendance:**

- From Low Income Housing Institute (LIHI) – Josh Castle, Bradford Gerber, Cierra Brown, Christina Estime
- From Nickelsville – Sean Smith, Anson Thomas, Bruce Gogle, Aaron Williams, Jamie Miller, Scott Morrow
- From City of Seattle – George Scarola, Lisa Gustavison
- From Othello Village Community Advisory Committee – Dick Burkhardt, Mary Hackney, Steve Marquardt, Eliana Scott, Jesiah Wurtz

**Contact information:**

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- Josh at LIHI: [jcastle@lihi.org](mailto:jcastle@lihi.org) . Dick (CAC): [dick2burk@gmail.com](mailto:dick2burk@gmail.com)

**History/Background of Nickelsville Othello Village**

- Nickelsville Othello Village has been in successful operation for almost two years. Nickelsville practices the self-managed model as the site operator. LIHI is the property manager and provides case management services.

**Othello Village Community Advisory Committee**

- For each of the four 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

- 1) Village Census: 48 adults, 31 men, 17 women, 11 Children and 6 pets
- 2) Report from Nickelsville: There had been a small fire at the LIHI Apartments to the south. A 911 call was made by security on duty because of smoke, and an unresponsive woman was found and helped.
  - a. Nickelsville Litter Patrols have been focused around the Link Station at the suggestion of OSCAT.
- 3) Lisa Gustaveson from the City explained the encampment evaluation criteria. Mary of the CAC described the Villages' accomplishment in changing apprehension and skepticism with community support of Othello.
  - a. Jesiah said that in addition to direct benefits of the village for the residents that live there, they also add a great presence to the whole neighborhood. He was very glad to see Othello Village residents cleaning the streets by his business (Café Red), and seeing how much better it looks.
- 4) Cierra, the LIHI case worker, gave a history of her employment with LIHI, explained housing placements and what case managers roles are at Nickelsville Othello Village. 34 people were placed into permanent housing in 2017, and more were placed into transitional housing.

- a. Josh said the Village has been working well and has been successful at transitioning residents into housing.
- 5) The Seattle Sanctioned Encampment Ordinance authorizes one-year permits with an extension for a 2nd year. Othello Village's two years expires in March. The LIHI Board has voted to support Othello Village to continue beyond March at the site. The City Council must change the Ordinance to allow further time, however the city could issue a temporary permit until a change in ordinance. Temporary permits have already been used for other encampments. The CAC discussed writing a letter to City, expressing support for both the change in ordinance and a temporary permit. Dick said that he would draft this letter and circulate it to the committee for comment. One suggestion for a change to the ordinance was that it include "periodic review" by the community rather than a fixed time limit.
- 6) TC5 in Interbay moved to a new site when the 2 year limit expired and now crime and trash have increased near the empty lot they vacated. Some neighbors wish it could have kept TC5 there. Lisa explained that there were unforeseen delays in moving TC5, such as lawsuits and changes in administration, but that the city is now much better prepared.
- 7) Concerns were expressed about poor communication between the city and Nickelsville staff that may have contributed to some of the expiration challenges at other encampments. Several individuals, including Mary, supported more face-to-face communications.
- 8) Scott said there was a link between city delays and that the voice, opinion and suggestions of the assorted sanctioned encampments residents and staff are often ignored. He said this has caused camps to not move or open when the City, Nickelsville and LIHI all committed to getting it done.
- 9) Nickelodeons and Nickelsville staff pointed out that the 'temporary permits' being issued by the city are not mentioned in the Ordinance, and that lately the original Ordinance and is Director Rules (MDR) have not been followed.
- 10) Several individuals said that the City Decision Makers should meet first with Nickelodeons and take into serious account what their needs and wishes are.
- 11) CAC members asked if two letters to the city would be more appropriate, one about allowing the camp to stay and the endorsement of the CAC, and one asking Seattle Leadership to request a change to the ordinance and to meet with Nickelodeons before deciding what the ordinance should include.
- 12) George said that the CAC should involve itself most with support of Othello Village, describing how it worked, and telling leaders why they want it to stay.
- 13) Eliana asked for the current stage in the proposed ordinance revision. Lisa said that it was still under discussion, not yet in draft form.
- 14) Mary said she wanted the City Decision Makers/Mayor to have a meeting with Nickelsville people to make sure they are listened to.
- 15) Scott asked the CAC to inform Nickelsville if there were problems that needed addressing.
- 16) Discussion on what letter to city should say about allowing Othello to stay, and how long Othello should occupy the site; one year, two years, or until LIHI needs to use the property.
- 17) There was discussion of about a possible newsletter about CAC monthly meetings and how others can get involved, with wider distribution of the minutes as a starting point.

18) The next CAC meeting was scheduled for 4 pm on Thursday, March 8th, at Le's Deli and Bakery.