**DRAFT MEETING NOTES – CAC REVIEW/APPROVAL PENDING**

**Othello Village Community Advisory Committee (CAC) Minutes**

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| CAC Name: | Othello Village |
| Date: | 07-11-2019 |
| Meeting Location: | Le’s Deli and Bakery |
| CAC members present: | Dick Burkhart, Eliana Scott-Thoennes, JesiahWurtz |
| OV residents present: | Sean Smith, Allen Martin, Ashley Roberts, Bruce Gogel, EarlieSpruell, James Williams, |
| Nickelsville staff present: | Marvin Futrell |
| LIHI staff **present**: | Cierra Brown, Josh Castle, Chris Brand, Jose Ruiz, Seth McMahill |
| City of Seattle staff in attendance: | Shawn Neal, Tom van Bronkhorst |
| Members of the public in attendance: | Josh Bradley, Sue Hodes |
| Note taker: | Eliana Scott-Thoennes |

1. **Introductions, community norms, and discussion of the June minutes.**  
   The minutes of the June meeting were reviewed and approved with one abstention.
2. **Public Comment:**   
   Sue: “Integrity required me to come. I am aghast that the Seattle City Council has not put pressure on HSD or LIHI to come with integrity to the table and work out their differences with Nickelsville. I am going to more in touch with the Council and share with them my deep concern that this has not moved forward.”

“Living in this society at the time of Trump, we, members of the homeless and housed communities, need to act with integrity. This is what grown ups do. I am going to start pressuring the Council on this.”  
  
“I was at the Housing for All meeting yesterday and was deeply concerned to learn that there are now security cameras at Othello Village that are pointed inward at the residents!”  
  
“I have only been at the village once since the take over, and it is not like before.”  
  
“I am troubled by the lack of respect for people being shown.”  
  
“Thank you to those sticking in there.”

“In most struggles for human rights we’re in the minority. Hold on even though the system seems overpowering.”  
  
“I’ve had some health issues and haven’t been able to be as involved, but I am back now and I’m going to keep pushing on this.”  
  
“We’ve got to keep fighting, keep integrity, and not compromise on what we know is right.”

1. **Updates from Othello Village Residents:** 
   1. 6 cameras, in 3 spots, have been installed facing in towards the village. There hasn’t been any discussion with residents about this, and residents have mixed feelings about whether this might be helpful or not.
   2. More needles have been seen
   3. “The site manager has been knocking on the doors of the porta-potties saying people are taking took long. These things aren’t helping solve the problems. Top down, empty threat approaches don’t work.”
   4. There has been food on the floor and skillets left around the grill. “this is why we still have rats”
   5. Drinking water isn’t always available. [note: it was clarified that there is bottled water available in the security shed that residents can request.] Sometimes the drinking water jugs are being filled with the rubber hose instead of the vinyl which is impacting the quality and flavor of the water.  
      Site manager Chris asked some clarifying questions about the hoses and confirmed that he has been using the correct hose, but residents explained not all the LIHI security staff seem to be aware which hose they should be using. There is also a broken water spigot handle.
   6. Donations from Simona for children’s birthday parties were stolen from the donations shed. Bags had been ripped apart and items stolen. The shed is locked and only LIHI security have the key, though a residents said he has seen the donations coordinator accessing it. [Clarification from Chris that the donations coordinator is not supposed to have access.]
   7. Wifi is still not available, though it is at Northlake.
   8. The shower trailer is still having problems, with 2-3 inches of water on the floow. One resident said it takes him half an hour to get it mopped up enough to use, and then he gets a knock on the door from LIHI security saying he’s been in the shower too long.
   9. LIHI security is seen as not handling recurring arguments between some residents well. There have been yelling matches and other conflicts.
   10. Sound Transit has issued apologies for taking away people’s passes. They had been printed on a different color paper than the sample fare enforcement had seen and they assumed the passes were forgeries until it was investigated.
   11. 3 of the 4 grievances reported at last month’s CAC meeting have not been addressed, despite the policy promising that each grievance will receive a response within 5 days. The site manager recalled two of the grievances, but not the third. The chair identified the source of the third and both chair and site manager were reminded to be more careful about resident privacy concerns and to avoid naming people at this public meeting.
   12. Last month’s inspection report shared with meeting attendees did include the full names of those who moved in or out and some residents expressed that this was inappropriate. Chris apologized and said he has already corrected that mistake on this month’s report.
   13. LIHI security has been very mixed. Some are competent, some don’t do anything, and there are still some who are sleeping through their shifts. There is one who appears offended when someone asks him questions, so residents aren’t comfortable asking him anything. Seth (who was present) was thanked for his work – “he does a good job and helps people”
   14. “The strike is continuing, but we are doing our part to be neat and clean and not quarrelsome”
   15. Camp meetings have been poorly attended, often with more LIHI staff than residents. LIHI has also brought Georgetown residents to the meeting, which some residents found inappropriate. There has not been a quorum for decision making. LIHI staff have made false personal attacks on residents (and Sharon Lee has done so to the media)
   16. A mother and child were barred with no explanation.
   17. The Notice of Violation from the Fire Department about the tents was never received by Nickelsville. The person named as the recipient is not known to the residents and the address it was sent to is the LIHI case manager’s office. It appears to be a notice that there isn’t a permit on file for how it is set up, but there was one initially and the permit should be able to be renewed or reapplied for.
   18. 5 people spoke at the Select Committee on Homelessness and the City Council members expressed strong support for mediation between LIHI, HSD, and Nickelsville.
   19. In the larger world: sweeps have been ramped up, Shaun Scott visited Northlake, Nickelsville signed Got Green’s New Green Deal petition, there will be a pancake breakfast at Northlake soon, and King County says there will be an Ombudsman Office for complaints soon, but planning meetings have been poorly attended and the scope is unclear.
2. **LIHI Case Manager Report:**  
     
   No report to share, but this coming Monday will be Cierra’s last day. Residents present expressed regret and we all wished her well in her transfer to True Hope Village.
3. **Monthly Village Inspection Report**
   1. Residents: 23 men, 15 women, 9 couples, 4 families, 12 children
   2. Move ins: none. Othello Village is not accepting intakes at this time.
   3. Move outs: 4 men, 2 women, 2 families, 3 children  
      H#4 moved to transitional housing. H#9 moved to permanent housing. H#12’s destination is unknown, H#24 (a family) moved to family in Montana, H#27 moved to Interbay Village
   4. 1 police call: someone outside the village called CPS with concerns and CPS called the police who came to the village. (Incident #19234395)
   5. 3 empty houses
   6. The fencing is in good condition with no repairs needed.
   7. Conditions of grounds:  
      No litter, cigarette butts, or no pet waste are present; trash is bagged and recycling is being separated, visible pets are leashed, rats have not been seen during the daytime inspection, and traps have been baited twice since last report. Condition of pathways = good, cleanliness of bathrooms= good (but there are leaks in the tanks that has been challenging to solve and has not yet been resolved), condition of kitchen= good, security and visitor logs are current & complete.
   8. 1 person was barred for theft. The chair asked what process was used, and Chris said he had documented the situation completely and then consulted with two residents in leadership for their support (which was given). The chair then asked what appeal is available to the barred resident and was told there is none, but the person was given a copy of the grievance policy along with the bar sheet.
   9. The tents are coming down. The intention is to replace them with tiny houses and to move current tent inhabitants to houses in the village or to other villages. The budget has been approved for levelling the back area and it is estimated that 12-14 new houses can be put there. The surveyor came out yesterday.
4. **Update on status of some LIHI staff members:** This would have been in response to resident concerns express at the June meeting, but was postponed due to time constraints. [See note at end of minutes.]
5. **OV Donation needs:** Will be shared via email due to time constraints. [See note at end of minutes]

1. **Questions for Contract Monitor**  
   Shawn Neal, from HSD, joined us to follow up on questions posed after last month. Unfortunately there was only a short amount of time available [see note at end of minutes]  
     
   Thanks to Shawn for his responsiveness via email.

It was confirmed that there was no health inspection for April/May as Shawn had understood that HSD personnel might not be welcome. The report for the June/July inspection is being prepared and will be shared with the CAC when it is complete.  
  
A resident asked if these reports could also be shared with Nickelsville. Shawn said that they could upon request. A request was made and the email address to be used was shared.  
  
There had been some questions emailed about how the decisions were made about which portions of the contract to regularly monitor, but since this is specific to some of the provisions and complex, it will be discussed further via email.  
  
Shawn performed a programmatic review and had shared the letter with the results via email. There were some questions about what the review entailed. The chair asked: “the letter mentioned an interview with Ralph Neis of LIHI and that he was asked about ‘program policies and procedures including processes on intake, involuntary removal of residents (being barred), decision making, and resident feedback, and data collection for HMIS’, what resident feedback was shared with you?” Shawn said he would need to check his notes. This will be followed up on via email.   
  
The chair asked if any part of the review process required interviews with residents, and was told it did not.

Given the time constraints, further question will be shared via email and Shawn offered to return again, should that be helpful.  
  
  
**Note: Much of today’s meeting time was consumed by acrimonious exchanges and interjections, including attempts to discuss the function and structuring of the meeting all despite repeated reminders by the chair that these interjections were out of order and the concerns should be saved for either discussions outside the meeting or agenda proposals for future meetings, although at this time back and forth discussion would not be considered given the high tensions and the lack of success when this has been tried in the past. The chair also reminded a CAC member that we have a private CAC meeting at which changes can be proposed and voted on and that this meeting was not an appropriate time for such a discussion.**