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

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

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| CAC Name: | Othello Village |
| Date: | 09-19-2019 |
| Meeting Location: | Le’s Deli and Bakery |
| CAC members present: | Dick Burkhart, Eliana Scott-Thoennes,Mary Hackney |
| OV residents present: | Allen Martin, Ashley Roberts, Bruce Gogel, Earlie Spruell, Emily Villa |
| Nickelsville staff present: | Marvin Futrell |
| LIHI staff present: | Josh Castle, Chris Brand. Jose Ruiz |
| City of Seattle staff in attendance: | Shawn Neal, Adrienne Easter |
| Members of the public in attendance: | none |
| Note taker: | Eliana Scott-Thoennes |

1. **Introductions, community norms:** **2.** **Public Comment:**  None
2. **Updates from Othello Village Residents:** 
   1. A resident gave a personal response to a letter Dick Burkhart sent to Scott Morrow about the village. The resident says he found the letter “very troubling”, especially a section asserting the elections and other votes at the village while Nickelsville was providing day-to-day management had not been democratic. The resident pointed out that Dick did not observe elections or other votes at the village, nor was he in any way involved in village decision making. The resident was also upset by “false” allegations about the camp leadership and “mistaken” claims that there had been drug use. The letter said that a bucket of needles was seen in the security shack shortly after LIHI took physical possession of the village. The resident explained that this bucket was the result of the litter buster work the camp residents used to do picking up trash in the surrounding neighborhood. The resident said “[Dick] basing his judgment on seeing that bucket is ridiculous” and questioned “why is [Dick] even on the CAC with this attitude?” “I thought [CAC members] were supposed to be neutral and this is far from it.”
   2. Concerns were raised about the repeated cancellation of camp meetings with the most recent meeting having been 9/3/19.
   3. Frustration was expressed that the plans to use True Vine as the religious sponsor for the camp are continuing despite resident objections (as described in last month’s CAC minutes), including the perception that it is a conflict of interest as the pastor of True Vine is a LIHI board member. This frustration appears to have been increased when the pastor visited the village with a LIHI delegation and interacted primarily with his escort rather than with the community.
   4. A number of residents shared their deep concern that the new intake process – with referrals coming primarily from the sweeps – would change the safety and security of the camp and make it closer to a ‘low barrier’ type of environment. It was also expressed that having the referrals handled this way was not in keeping with a self-management approach. One resident shared that there is a perception that placement will be determined by pleasing the site manager. [see Q2 below]
   5. It was reported that a “violent” resident was allowed to remain in the village over the weekend before a 7 day bar was imposed. This was troubling to the resident reporting who said “under Nickelsville rules there would have been a 24 hour immediate bar” after which elected camp leadership would evaluate safety concerns and make a decision about next steps.
   6. A concern about privacy and resident rights was raised over an incident related to a missing bike. A neighbor came to the village looking for her stolen bike and staff allowed her in to search the village for it and gave her the name and house number of a specific resident and told her to check there. She found her bike behind the resident’s house. He explained he had purchased it from someone and returned it to the her. The neighbor then made a public Facebook post naming the resident. The residents at the meeting today made a public request that LIHI ask her to take down her post and shared their distress at this event which they saw as a violation of their privacy and not in accord with any current protocols.
   7. It was reported that the toys and play vehicles in the children’s play space were thrown away by the site manager after some discussions about the need for parents to ensure toys were being put away properly. It was said that this had a negative impact on the children in the camp and was seen as being unnecessary and “unkind” to the kids.
   8. A number of residents attended a recent City Council committee meeting with some other community members at which they shared their request to the Council that “LIHI be fired, Northlake stay on their site with a religious sponsor, and Othello Village residents be allowed to use a 10,000 sq ft piece of city property to move to with [a] religious sponsor”
   9. Issues were raised about a recent program review of Othello Village by HSD: “4 grievances were sent to LIHI per their process and you only received one…and said you were satisfied with LIHI’s response… you need to know it took them 3 weeks to respond [to this resident’s grievance] and there has been no resolution or conclusion yet.”  
        
      “There was an email from HSD asking to see bars from Othello Village. We replied yes, but wanted to clarify the process. Ralph [Neis from LIHI] emailed, we said we were working with HSD… I still have the bars and am open to meeting with HSD when they want to discuss them.”  
        
      “It seems apparent to me that it would be prudent for [HSD] to talk with the residents, the people affected by the program when doing a review of the program”  
        
      “Disappointed to see there are no recommendations for improving Othello Village and you say everything is fine because it is overseen by the site manager – but that isn’t correct, and you will miss what’s really going on if you don’t talk with residents”

**Clarifying questions:**  
Q1: Dick wanted to know how the resident had seen the letter he sent to Scott Morrow.  
A1: Since the letter referred to village leadership, Scott shared it with elected leaders.  
  
Q2: Concerns were expressed about vacancies being filled by the Navigation Team, but also about possible favoritism by the site manager in filling vacancies. Could you clarify the process being discussed?  
A2: These are two separate issues. Vacancies are going to be filled through referrals by the Nav. Team, REACH, and/or off-site LIHI staff. Which unit someone is placed in is determined by the site manager.  
  
Q3: Josh Castle from LIHI wished to clarify that the camp will continue to be “clean and sober” and that LIHI has no intention of changing Othello to a low barrier village. Adrienne Easter from HSD added that the city intends to keep the same guidelines for the village and that the Nav Team adapts referrals to the respective programs. The chair asked residents to clarify if they were concerned that the guidelines were being changed or about a possible shift in tenor of the village as a result of changing the intake process.  
A3: Residents said that the concern was that having most vacancies filled from the sweeps would shift nature of the community more toward the low barrier direction, even if no formal policies were changed.

1. **LIHI Site Manager Report:**
   1. Residents: 21 men, 12 women, 8 couples, 2 families, 9 children
   2. Move ins: 0
   3. Move outs: 0
   4. 0 police calls.
   5. 3 bars (2 permanent, 1 7 day temporary bar)
      1. Destruction of property off site
      2. Violence and possession of drug paraphernalia (documented with photos and videos)
      3. No sign in for 4th consecutive 10 day period, then drug paraphernalia was found in the unit. (documented with photos)
   6. 15 empty houses (13 from the expansion)
   7. The fencing is overall in good condition, but there is still a work order in to fix fence after expansion complete. Grass trimming needs to be done, but first trimmer needs to be replaced.
   8. Conditions of grounds:  
      No litter or cigarette butts are present in general (but depends on active clean up work), no pet waste present, trash is bagged, recycling is being separated, visible pets are leashed, rats are visible at times and traps are set. Condition of pathways = good, cleanliness of bathrooms= excellent, condition of kitchen= okay, condition of laundry room= good (but would like to see residents clean up better after themselves, security, donation, and visitor logs are current & complete.
   9. Most recent village meeting was cancelled due to rain and only 3 people were present.
   10. Despite objections to the proposed religious sponsor Chris emphasized “this is LIHI property, under LIHI control, and LIHI has the sole power to choose the sponsor” He added that no other potential sponsor had contacted LIHI.
   11. He objected to residents saying the current system is not self-management “what does self management look like when the whole village is on strike?”
   12. In response to resident concerns about the delayed bar: the violent resident was ”subdued by staff” and LIHI policy does not permit bars on the weekend.
   13. In response to concerns about toys being thrown out – “I asked parents many times to clean up” but the work kept falling on staff. Then the toys were inspected and determined to have mold and debris. New toys have been donated and will be put out soon.
   14. Work party tomorrow
   15. Operation Sack Lunch is still bringing meals once a day between 3-4pm.

**Clarifying questions:**

Q1: What time will the work party be?

A1: 9am to 3pm

Q2: What kind of trimmer is needed?

A2: Electric cordless ideal, but other types could work. Mary Hackney has one to donate!

Q3: What happened to the two people permanently barred?

A3: Both came back to talk with the site manager, but it is not known where they ended up.

Q4: Could you, please, clarify for the record that drug use, such as that for which people were barred, is not common at the village?

A4: There have only been three instances of that sort since April. This is not a daily, weekly, or even monthly occurance.

Q5: Is the encampment supposed to be drug free? What happens if Nav team refers someone who turns out to be using?

A5: Yes. This is not a low barrier encampment. The Nav team is supposed to refer based on the program parameters. If a mistake is made, the situation will be evaluated case by case to see if the individual needs to be referred to another program.

Q6: There are red sharps containers around the village, but someone can be perm barred for having needles?

Q7: “I will not perm bar someone just for needles”. If there are straps and other paraphernalia and no evidence of being diabetic and thus having a need for needles, then there will be a perm bar.

Q8: Could something be done about food safety issues with OSL? Meat isn’t always completely cooked and food is being left out unrefrigerated and uncovered from delivery time until 9:30-10pm. [multiple questions condensed here from the lengthy discussion]

A8: There was extensive exploration of this issue, including a clear statement by Adrienne Easter of HSD that food safety guidelines must be followed. She recommended food be refrigerated upon receipt and people could use the microwave to warm it up. Nonperishable food, she said, also needs to be covered. Chris will email Ralph, Brad, and Josh to ensure this is addressed. There will be an update at the next CAC meeting.

1. **Update on Intake and Inclusion Process**Mary Hackney described her outreach work and that she had recently come by the village with a woman in need of shelter and was told the process for intake had changed and she couldn’t just bring someone by to get them started. She emphasized how important it is for community supporters to be kept updated on the process so our time is well used and people in need know what to expect.   
     
   Chris explained that the new process takes referrals from the Navigation Team and REACH only. Offsite LIHI staff can help connect people to REACH. Walk-ins are no longer accepted.  
     
   Chris will send a description of the process and how to connect with those staff people to the Google group.

Q1: is there an evaluation scale for placement?

A1: This will be answered next month.

Q2: How will units be designated? In the past there were a certain number of units that were set aside for families, etc.

A2: This has not yet been determined. There will be an update at the next CAC meeting.

1. **Questions for Contact Monitor**

There was some discussion with the contract monitor and Adrienne Easter from HSD. More questions will be sent via email, and might be discussed further at the next CAC meeting.