

Advisory Committee on Implementation of Rules of Removing Unsanctioned Homeless Encampments
July 11, 2017, 6 PM to 8 PM
Boards and Commissions Room L280, City Hall

Co-Chairs: Colleen Echohawk and Patricia McInturff

Notes

1. Welcome—Councilmember Sally Bagshaw and George Scarola, Director of Homelessness on behalf of the Mayor.

Sally – Thanked everyone for their work and moving people into housing and providing the care they need. She commented on the need to work with County and State to coordinate our response to homelessness and acknowledge it is a regional issue. She also stated we have work to do to make sure we have funding for Mental Health services. She would like to put a flag in the middle of table and say we are going to get 1000 new units of housing (partnerships with landlords, new units, etc.)

George – Thanked everyone for agreeing to serve on the committee, and acknowledged all the different perspectives they bring. He let the group know they are not charged with trying to fix the entire housing and homelessness system; their charge is quite focused: reviewing, evaluating and commenting on the City’s implementation of its rules governing the removal of unsanctioned encampments. Those rules are codified in the Finance & Administrative Services Rule No. 17-01.

Patricia – Glad we have the Council and Mayor’s Office working together to support this committee and the work.

2. Introduction of Co-Chairs and their roles—Patricia and Colleen
Colleen – Executive Director, Chief Seattle Club. We are now seeing over 140+ people a day. I am here to here to keep us on track, and keep the discussion moving.
Patricia – Former Human Services Department (HSD) Director, and senior administrator with Public Health/Parks. Our role is specific; we are charged with making sure the City is consistent and follows adopted city rules.

The Co-chairs will be the spokespeople for the group, they will set the agenda’s and coordinate with City staff to present information at the meetings.

3. Introduction of members. Your affiliation and why are you agreed to serve. One minute per person

Patricia McInturff, Co-Chair	Former City department director
Colleen Echohawk, Co-Chair	Chief Seattle Club, Coalition to End Urban Native American Homelessness
Leslie Smith	Alliance for Pioneer Square, Member of Unsanctioned Encampments Task Force
Sheila Sebron	Veterans, Healthcare for the Homeless Network
Juan Cotto	Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center
Quynh Pham	Friends of Little Saigon
James (Jimmy) Hurd	Holgate Street Church of Christ
Erin Goodman	SODO BIA, Member of Unsanctioned Encampments Task Force
Michael Neguse	Seattle Neighborhood Group
Dan Wise	Catholic Community Services
Mark Lloyd	Advocate, Rainier Valley Neighborhood

Harold Odom
Charlie Costanzo

Advocate, Resident of Georgetown Village
Ballard Alliance

4. Review of Committee Charge

a. Charter—George Scarola

See Attachment

Q: Are we going to be able to give examples about situations and ask for accountability/clarity/give feedback on what could be done better.

A: Yes, for discussion and we will have a lot of conversation about what is happening on the street.

Comment: We should be looking at the rules at a system level (helping the city shape the rules), looking at themes.

b. FAS 17-01—Chris Potter

See Attachment

Q: Who does the removal?

A: Navigation Team (outreach/police and support team)

Comments:

Committee should visit the City Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and see how the Navigation Team works.

There needs to be a focus on equity in the outreach – outreach and services should match who is on the street.

Q: What is photographed?

A: The site before and after, the city is not publishing specific items and faces.

Q: How is State land is dealt with?

A: The rules apply to city staff and city land, if we are on Wash State Dept of Transportation (WSDOT) land we follow the city rules, but WSDOT/Port/private could set their own rules. At times, we partner with the WSDOT to do cleanups.

Q: How often do cleanup happen, and is there a schedule?

A: We don't publish schedule - it is consistently being updated due to needs/safety/staffing. On average, there is one clean-up a day on weekdays, could be at a large site multiple days, or 2-3 small sites in one day.

Q: Do we know where people go?

A: If they accept a safe alternative we know where we sent them, and if we have a deeper relationship with the site, we know who followed up/showed up/outcomes.

Comments: There are two Depart of Transportations (state and city). The first two weeks are when people are going to stay or go at the sanctioned encampments. The drug and alcohol issues is over emphasized, not everyone out there needs substance abuse treatment.

Q: Box cutters are used on tents during sweeps, what are your thoughts on this, and is this part of the scope of the committee to talk about.

A: This is part of the storage discussion. Yes, this should be a part of the rules/discussion.

Q: Do outreach workers use HMIS—the county’s Homeless Management Information System?

A: Yes, outreach teams are using HMIS. HMIS is now housed at King County.

5. Discussion and Agreement on Public Input—Colleen
Public comment will happen at the beginning of the meeting. In the future, we will limit PC to 1-2 minutes each.
6. Public Comment if any—20 min max--Colleen and Patricia
Sally – City Council Committee meeting on 7/12 will focus on Family Resource Center and the Seattle Office of Civil Rights (SOCR) report on encampments.
Erin – Wants to make sure people know that the report reflects work happening before the new rules that have been in place the last 6 months.
7. Meeting Schedule and Location—Discussion and Agreement—Patricia
No August meeting, the next two meeting will take place in Sept. and Oct. on the 2nd Tuesday of the month from 6-8pm (food will be provided).

Comments:

It would be helpful to build in clear outcomes for each meeting.

Let’s build on progress and keep the systems focus – let’s help city staff do their jobs.

It would be good to add a youth/young adult member to the committee.

8. Review and status report on encampment clean-ups — Chris Potter - 10 minutes
All encampment work flows through the Navigation Team. Encampment observations all go to Navigation Team (public complaints, city staff reports, etc. – children present, bon fire is spreading) Prioritization is part of the rules, and staff are filtering as information comes in.

Coordination for activities is happening at the EOC – the Navigation Team, Parks, DOT, HSD, and Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) are all represented, and working together.

Q: Are the number of people on the street going up/down?

A: Point in Time (PIT) define showed 9% increase for people unsheltered. The Seattle Encampment Response Information System (SERIS) data in Feb. showed 400+ encampment, some of these could be double counts/stale.

Q: Does the city have a goal on how many people are sleeping on the streets?

A: This work (the cleanups) is not going to end homelessness, we have a multi prong approach.

Q: Will we hit a point where there are no new safe alternatives?

A: We are working on throughput in our shelters/housing programs to get people into permanent housing. This is an ongoing issue that multiple departments are engaged in.

Q: What happens when you reach capacity in safe alternatives?

A: This is a conversation that needs more time than we have now, let’s put it on the agenda for a future meeting.

Q: How are trash/toilets dealt with.

A: In some instances, trash pick-up happens with city contracted vendors, or partnering with community volunteers. We will add this topic to a future meeting agenda and provide more details.

9. Adjourn and set date for next meeting.

Sept. 12th, 6-8pm

Staff Members Attending:

George Scarola, Director of Homelessness, Mayor's Office

Chris Potter, Director of Operations, Dept of Finance and Administrative Services

Jason Johnson, Deputy Director, Human Services Department

Emily Nolan, Strategic Advisor, Mayor's Office

Robert Stowers, Division Director, Environment and Parks

Katoya Grant, Executive Assistant to the Director of Homelessness

Attachments:

Committee Roster and contact information

Charter

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