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

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

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| CAC Name: | Othello Village |
| Date: | 12-19-2019 |
| Meeting Location: | Le’s Deli and Bakery |
| CAC members present: | Dick Burkhart, Eliana Scott-Thoennes, Jesiah Wurtz |
| OV residents present: | Bill Corpening, Seth, Lorene |
| True Vine members present: | Pastor Willis, Richard Elmore |
| LIHI staff present: | Chris Brand, Jose Ruiz, Josh Castle, Sharon Lee |
| City of Seattle staff in attendance: | Lisa Gustaveson |
| Members of the public in attendance: | Bruce Gogel, Travis J. |
| Note taker: | Eliana Scott-Thoennes & Jesiah Wurtz |

1. **Introductions, community norms;**
2. **Public Comment:**  Bruce, a former resident of Othello Village says he came because he saw newspaper articles in which he felt he was slandered by LIHI staff and wanted to set the record straight. Bruce's says he was used as a scapegoat by Sharon Lee to justify LIHI's hostile takeover of Othello Village. He says he was regularly slandered by LIHI staff and accused of dictatorial behavior despite being regularly elected democratically to his position and that Sharon Lee has failed to offer proof of her accusations and has refused to meet to discuss accusations against him. The offer to meet still stands. Bruce told his story as a recovered drug addict and how much it hurts to be unfairly accused of dealing drugs, using drugs, and condoning use of drugs at Othello Village.

Pastor Willis interjects that public comment should be censored if attacking someone. Says meetings should be structured to be able to shut down public comment. Eliana explains why public comment is set up the way it is but that CAC is open to having conversations about changing the way meetings are run. Pastor Willis says he would like to have a meeting about how to restructure CAC meeting. As a sponsor he says he would like to examine all parts of how the meetings are run.  
  
Travis, a former resident of Georgetown village, said “I’ve have reviewed everything on both sides of the coin [including] all the paperwork.” “what saddens me most is when I look at everything and don’t get why two great organizations had to fight in the first place.”

1. **Updates from Othello Village Residents:** 
   1. Bill: “The village is running quite nicely. It’s a good place to come home to.”
   2. Lorene: “Othello Village is run immaculately and anything I’ve needed or wanted has been provided, almost without me even having to ask. Always positive support there from staff and residents.”  
        
      Question from Pastor Willis: “How long have you lived at the village”  
      Lorene: ~1month Bill: 3 months Seth: ~3 months living on site, 8-9 months working there
   3. Seth: “It’s busy [at the village]” I’m doing maintenance – winterizing, new faucet system (to hook up the pressure washer to), 2 new sections of lighting (in front of the donation shack and the laundry), working on the gate and fence to get the privacy screening all raised up to standard height”
2. **Donation Needs:**“Vince [the donation coordinator] apologizes for his absence” “he’s working down in Tacoma and not able to be here on time”. “The donations are very helpful and plentiful. There’s an area with a awning to bring in donations without them getting soaked” Winter jackets and clothing are coming in, as are consumables. Needs are always met quickly when a list is shared.  
   Current needs: winter boots, rain jackets, socks, liquid laundry soap.  
     
   Question from Pastor Willis about the donation process  
   Seth: Donor is met at the gate by security, donor’s name is recorded in the security log and again in the donation log, donations are sorted and then taken to the donation shack or to a specific resident if they’ve placed a request with Vince. (Vince asks new residents to tell him when they move in if they have any needs he can try to meet through donations.)  
     
   Question from Eliana: What type of laundry detergent is preferred?  
   Chris: ALL.  
     
   Question from Brother Richard: does money get donated?  
   Answer: If a monetary donation is made it gets logged and then turned over to Ralph Neis.
3. **LIHI Site Manager Report:**
   1. Residents: 33 men, 17 women, 9 couples, 4 families, 7 children, 2 pets (1 dog and 1 cat)
   2. 1 police call for a gun shot outside of the village that went through a resident’s home. The response was very delayed. Police did not arrive until the next afternoon.   
      Lisa Gustaveson said she will talk with the site manager after the meeting to get more details and will follow up with SPD.
   3. No bar updates given.
   4. 1 empty house being prepared for a family of 4
   5. Bathrooms are being cleaned 4 times/day and are in excellent condition
   6. The kitchen coordinator is doing a great job and has one helped
   7. Litter busters are doing a great job inside the village!
   8. There are still large rats visible.  
      Lisa Gustaveson says the site manager should call the pest company contracted to provide pest management and ask them to come back out more frequently if needed. She will authorize the expenditure when it comes to her.
   9. Conditions of grounds:   
      No litter or cigarette butts are visible, no pet waste present, trash is bagged, recycling is being separated, visible pets are leashed. Condition of pathways = good, cleanliness of bathrooms= good, condition of kitchen= good, condition of laundry room= good, security, donation, and visitor logs are current & complete.
   10. Operation Sack Lunch continues to deliver meals daily between 3-4pm.   
       Question from Sharon: OSL has been donating the meals this year (costing $40,000), but cannot afford to do so next year. She wanted to know how valuable has this service has been to residents  
       Chris: “It would be very detrimental [if it were not continued].”  
       Sharon: Would you say this [service] is critically important to the village?”  
       Answer: “yes”  
       Seth: There are [homeless] people who stop by asking for food, and we are able to share [some of the OSL food] with them.  
       Question from Brother Richard: Was anyone aware that OSL’s donated meals were costing them $40K?  
       Sharon: Yes. They were doing this as a favor because they have other contracts with us, but they aren’t able to continue next year without payment.  
       Lisa: We [she and Sharon] have a meeting scheduled to discuss next year’s budget, including this item.
   11. “I was down at the new village in Tacoma today” in two weeks they’ve gotten so much done and the new residents are very happy being housed.
4. **Updates from Case Manager**
5. 7 move outs. A family of 5 to permanent housing. 1 individual to a 2 year program and 1 to another village. [It was clarified that for HMIS purposes, this was 3 households exiting.]
6. It was a big challenge recently moving two large families into housing.

Questions from Pastor Willis and Brother Richard:  
Q1: Do you have a list of the make up of ethnicities at the village?

A1: Yes, that can be sent to you.  
Q2: When people move in, is there a time limit?  
A2: No, but we try to move as fast as possible to get IDs and other steps.  
Q3: Is it possible for people to look for employment [while living at the village]

A3: Yes.  
Q4: is there a requirement sheet given on entry?

A4: Yes. A code of conduct and an agreement for supportive services are signed.

1. **Introduction to Pastor Willis**Introduction from Sharon sharing some of Pastor Willis’s work and highlighting his involvement in the village project.   
   Pastor Willis spoke briefly: “thank you, Othello Village. You guys are doing amazing work. I’m honored to be a part of Othello Village. I’ve been working with you from the beginning – building the tiny houses.” “It’s good seeing how the tiny house villages have expanded to all over the city.”  
   “We’re excited as a church to sponsor the village”  
   [to the residents present]: “thank you for sharing” “it touches my heart to hear that you feel good coming home. I imagine there was a time that wasn’t the case”  
     
   Lisa reminds that ordinance requires minimum 7 members, to be immediate neighbors, business, faith community. PW says he would like to help grow the CAC into a bigger group and suggests villagers could be on CAC. Lisa likes that suggestion. Sharon says CAC is no longer required under ordinance, and as such is now totally voluntary, we don't need seven members like ordinance, don't need to follow ordinance guidelines. PW asks if the sponsor could chair meetings to "bring structure." Eliana reminds purpose of CAC is to be independent and voice of surrounding community.
2. HSD gave some brief updates – mainly that the village is now operating under the religious encampment ordinance. Eliana asked when that went into effect, but no one present was certain of the exact date. There was an announcement on the City’s website that can be checked.