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

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| CAC Name: | Othello Village |
| Date: | 03-14-2019 |
| Meeting Location: | Le’s Deli and Bakery |
| CAC members present: | Dick Burkhart, Eliana Scott-Thoennes, Jesiah Wurtz |
| OV residents present: | Sean Smith, Keith Johnson |
| Nickelsville staff present: | Scott Morrow |
| LIHI staff present: | Cierra Brown, Josh Castle |
| City of Seattle staff in attendance: | Lisa Gustaveson, Will Lemke (HSD) |
| Members of the public in attendance: | None |
| Note taker: | Eliana Scott-Thoennes |

1. **Introduction and discussion of the February minutes.**   
   The minutes of the February meeting were reviewed and approved
2. **Public Comment:**  There was no public comment.
3. **Othello Village Report:** 
   1. 43 adults, 18 children, 9 families, 3 pets.
   2. There were no 911 calls.
   3. There were 3 tent bars: 2 for PC, 1 for missing camp meetings
   4. The UW student accountability study on the bar process is being rolled out.
   5. King County Public Health is coming tomorrow.
   6. Yesterday Women in Black stood for 10 more deaths, bringing the total for the year to 28, and the total since they began to 1006.
   7. The HSD sub-committee of the Council had a resolution regarding the process for naming a replacement head of HSD which did not pass in full Council, but the subcommittee is not moving the nomination out of committee.
   8. The Nickelsville Central Committee meetings are now rotating from camp to camp rather than being held at the SHARE offices.
   9. Yesterday discussion started on where the Licton Springs tiny houses will be distributed.
   10. One tiny house is being donated by Rainier Beach First Presbyterian Church this coming Sunday
   11. Latest data shows a 42% placement from tiny houses to housing compared to 4% for basic shelters and 20% for enhanced shelters
4. **LIHI Case Manager Report:**
   1. 2 move outs to transitional housing and 3 to permanent housing
   2. 3 more are scheduled to move to transitional housing and 3 more moves might happen this month.
5. **CAC attending Camp Meetings:** CAC members signed up for monthly shifts attending OV camp meetings. Eliana will send out a copy of the list and will ensure email reminders are sent each month.
6. **Update on connecting with other CACs**: Eliana sent out a letter to the other CACs in the City, as discussed last month, to suggest developing some ongoing communications amongst the CACs. Responses so far have been very enthusiastic. Eliana will be setting up a Google group for all those interested and a Doddle poll for scheduling a meeting. A copy of the letter was shared.
7. **Updates from Josh Castle (LIHI)**
   1. Scott and Josh met to discuss additional members for the CAC and have a list of possibilities to start reaching out to.
   2. Josh will send out a link to the application so current CAC members can share within our networks.
   3. LIHI has two housing development projects in the works:
      1. Othello Park Apartments has been funded by the City of Seattle and King County and construction is scheduled to begin in spring of 2020. It will have 100 units of affordable housing with ~75% of those affordable for 30% of AMI and under.
      2. Othello MLK will be applying for funding in fall of 2020 with construction projected to begin in 2022. It will have 190 units of affordable housing.
8. **Update from Lisa Gustaveson and Will Lemke (HSD)**
   1. Permit expiration: Conversations have been happening in coordination with the Mayor’s office. There will be an announcement next week which will include next steps for Othello Village, Georgetown, and Camp Second Chance. It was emphasized that HSD sees these encampments as an integral part of the system and believes strongly in this model.   
        
      Sean pointed out the stress that the lack of communication about the future of the village is causing the residents.
   2. Permit renewal process: there is a clear process in the Ordinance for renewals at the end of the first year, but no process for any renewals after that. OV is currently operating on a T-1 temporary use permit as the Ordinance only covers 3 encampments and there are currently 9 in operation. T-1 permits limit the type of construction or structures which can be on the land – which explains why the kitchen and sanitary facilities at OV have to be as rudimentary as they are.  
        
      Scott pointed out that Nickelsville interprets the Ordinance differently and does not believe it is legally valid to switch over to T-1 permits. It is Nickelsville’s position that the Ordinance needs to be revised.
   3. Status of legislative remedy: There is no political will at this time for legislative remedy, despite the manifest advantages it would offer.
   4. Seat at the table for residents: The current ways of hearing resident input were described, as was the challenge inherent in addressing these needs given how many villages there are now. However it was acknowledged that the City could and should do better. Once the MOU between LIHI and Nickelsville is in place and those working relationships are established, then the city can think about where they can be inserted.  
        
      Scott expressed skepticism about both the ordering and sincerity of this plan. Nickelsville has tried, most recently February 12th, to share its concerns with HSD, but “we were told there would be no response by Adrienne Easter.”  
        
      Scott sees adjusting the relationship between the City and Nickelsville as being the first step needed including established means of communication “based on the Ordinance and truth that we are the operators according to the Ordinance.” And that the subcontractor language the City is using to refer to Nickelsville now is contrary to the Ordinance which requires the Operator to be on the Authorized Encampment Operator List.  
        
      Lisa acknowledged that there are requirements in the Ordinance that LIHI does not meet, but explained that the Ordinance also includes a list of functions the operator is required to perform (including carrying liability insurance) and that LIHI meets those requirements and Nickelsville does not.   
        
      Although some hypotheses were raised, CAC members remain unclear on the legal situation and whether the City is considering the Ordinance as legally binding or as a more optional set of guidelines. Further clarification is needed, but the discussion was deferred to ensure the meeting could finish on time.
9. **Report back on MOU discussions**Lisa explained that the contractual requirement for LIHI to establish a memorandum of understanding with Nickelsville came about as a result of an evaluation of the villages, in which she participated, which noted a number of misunderstandings and miscommunications. The MOU is intended to offer mutual accountability between the two organizations.  
     
   In LIHI’s contract with the City, it was supposed to be completed in 2018. As that has not happened, the City set a deadline of the 1st quarter of the year, later clarified to 3/8/2019. That date has passed and discussions are still ongoing.  
     
   The CAC has received updates via email from both parties and has had and will continue to have observers at the meetings, so it was suggested that we did not need to dive into the details.   
     
   Josh emphasized the importance of safeguards and communication around the bar process to avoid having people fall unnecessarily back into homelessness. He also mentioned the importance of involvement with social workers to help move people into housing and assess their other needs.  
     
   Scott explained the three needs Nickelsville sees for a understanding to be reached:  
    - a 1 month extension of the (already past) deadline  
   - HSD participation in the discussions  
   - a neutral third party mediator  
     
   Lisa said the City will not be granting an extension and Josh expressed his hopes that an agreement would be reached at the next MOU meeting, scheduled for Friday 3/15.  
     
   Jesiah expressed some strong criticism of the disparaging, disrespectful language about Nickelsville that was used in a letter Sharon Lee sent the CAC with the latest MOU draft. He felt it was “insulting” and showed a “lack of good faith”.  
     
   Josh acknowledged that he had also received a letter about this from Eliana and asked “what about the rest of the letter” [ie aside from those few lines]. He reiterated LIHI’s conviction that the bar process needs revision.  
     
   Many attendees had more they would have liked to have said, but further discussion has been deferred until our next meeting.
10. Feedback cards for the meeting were passed out. Results will be shared at the next meeting.

**Next CAC meeting**: 4pm April 11, 2019 at Le’s Deli and Bakery