**Interbay Tiny House Village Community Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes**

**Date:** Tuesday, Aug 28, 5:30 pm

**Location:** DESC Interbay Place, 2208 15th Ave W, Seattle, WA 98119

**CAC members**: Niki Amarantides, Dana Dunklin, Pastor Joy Haertig, Libby Stevenson, Janis Traven

**CAC member attendees**: Dana Dunklin, Pastor Joy Haertig, Libby Stevenson

**Community members:** Magnolia Ecumenical Group for TC5 members Sue Olson and Lisa Verner

**Resident attendees:** Jennifer, Jericho, Panda, Paul

**LIHI attendees**: Sharon Lee, Ali Sharekian, Kayla Martinez, Josh Castle

**City staff attendees**: Lisa Gustaveson with HSD, Karen Ko with DON

**Meeting minutes**

Interbay residents reported the village will remain clean and sober and the Code of Conduct has not changed. There is no validity to rumors to the contrary.

Panda reported that the residents of Interbay voted to remove SHARE as village managers following a dispute about the appropriateness of banning residents from camp after specific incidents. LIHI is now camp operator.

Incident as reported by Interbay residents: A resident had a weapon outside of camp and showed it to another resident. The resident with the weapon came into camp, demonstrated the weapon again and then passed out. 4 hours later the police were called. It took time because the residents were frightened and did not want to come out of their homes and were unsure of what protocol to follow. When the police showed up they did not search the resident who was reported to have a weapon. The police asked him to leave the camp and he did so. The residents are concerned with how to deal with a weapon in the village. SHARE’s response to the incident was to assert its no weapons management policy, which was a 30 day appealable bar on the 3 people who were aware of the weapon.

Campers reported another incident where a resident was barred because he didn’t behave appropriately while representing the camp at a required SHARE meeting outside of the village. The Executive Committee members signed a form to permanently bar the resident even though they did not agree with the way the situation was being handled.

LIHI has supported the village residents’ self-management model and choices: when a resident is barred they become homeless. Depending on the situation, LIHI may help with placement in a hotel, in a shelter or at another location as we do not want them to become homeless again.

Residents discussed their experience in the camp leading to their vote to change management. Some said they felt they were being discouraged from meeting with the LIHI case manager, and asking for and receiving services, because they had not previously felt they could and/or or did not know how to contact LIHI directly.

Ali (the Case Manager) reported an increased case load because residents are more aware of the services LIHI provides. A CAC member asked what is being done to educate residents on the right thing to do in case of weapons. Residents agreed that in the future the situation will be immediately reported to the police. A recommendation was also made to the camp to provide continued, repetitive training to residents on the rules for living at Safe Harbor.

A CAC member asked about education for residents after the change in management. Residents responded that they want to continue a program that is focused on self-management.

The residents were concerned that their village did not have the same amenities as the other ones that are similarly sponsored by LIHI and SHARE. Residents want showers, mattresses, more services offered, another case manager, a site manager and a point of contact at LIHI, blankets and coats. A major concern is that bus tickets were not available in the aftermath of the management change.

One solution to the showers is for Union Gospel Mission (UGM) to bring a portable shower and LIHI will rent a 700 gallon grey water tank. The showers will be available once a week to start unless UGM can do more. Residents stressed that personal hygiene affects their mental well being. One resident reported that “We need mental health services.” There is interest in receiving mental health services by Lifelong and DESC.

Panda is planning on creating a website for the village and is working on a regular meal calendar. He said the encampment has a Facebook page called “Tiny Cabin Safe Harbor” and the camp phone number is 206-356-4484.

LIHI and the City of Seattle want to strengthen the communication with the CAC so that everyone is openly communicating. The CAC has two open positions. It was agreed that another faith community stakeholder slot should be created and Lisa Verner agreed to apply for it. Josh will send her an application.

There was discussion about re-strengthening community ties with neighbors, organizations, and churches. CAC and community members said they want to help in re-establishing donations of meals and items. Sue Olson with the Ecumenical Group indicated the committee will continue to be very involved in providing meals, propane pick-up and delivery as well as crucial needs throughout the varying seasons such as collecting blankets, coats, socks, etc., as needed.

The CAC will revert to regular meeting schedule on first Mondays of the month at 5:00 pm.

The next meeting will be Monday, October 1, at 5:00 pm at Episcopal Church of the Ascension (2330 Viewmont Way, Seattle, WA 98199)