

Camp Second Chance Community Advisory Committee meeting notes – 6-4-17

(Notes have been organized topically and not exact order of discussion)

Agenda

1. Introductions
 - a. All attendees
 - b. CAC members and Camp representatives please identify as such in intro
2. CAC Acceptance of May meeting notes
3. Next meeting time and location
 - a. Due to scheduling conflict, 4-6 is not available at Arrowhead Gardens - will 2-4 work or do we need to find a different location?
 - b. 7/2 may be a Holiday weekend for some - is there a need to re-schedule? Labor day may be a concern as well.
4. Camp Updates
5. Camp Needs
6. CAC concerns/questions
 - a. Willow: Can we get an update on stewardship efforts at site? (Grace?)
 - b. Willow: Is garbage service meeting needs? (noticed over-full dumpsters this week)
 - c. Willow: What is status on website updates and how can we help?
7. Community concerns/questions related to camp

Introductions

CAC: Cinda Stenger, Aaron Garcia, Willow Fulton, Grace Stiller, Aaron Goss, Judi Carr

City of Seattle: Tom Van Bronkhorst

Patacara: Polly Trout, Simon Stephens, Eric Davis

Camp Second Chance residents: Chris Brand, Michelle, Susan, Crystal, Chris

Other community members: Gary White (West Seattle resident – filming for documentary), Elaine Ike (Seattle Green Space Coalition), Nicolas, Carol, Fred, Eric, Mary Fleck (Seattle Green Space Coalition), Ben, Janice, Tracy Record (West Seattle Blog)

CAC Acceptance of May meeting notes

Meeting notes were previously sent to members via email for review – all members present accepted notes – notes will be sent to Tom to publish on city webpage (<https://www.seattle.gov/homelessness/sanctioned-encampments>)

Next meeting time and location

- Previously, CAC agreed to meeting the first Sunday of each month 4:00 – 6:00 pm at Arrowhead Gardens Welcome Center. Due to scheduling conflict, 4:00 – 6:00 is not available at that location – CAC was asked if will 2:00 - 4:00 work or if different location should be found. All agreed to move time to 2:00 – 4:00 pm.
- Next meeting will be Sunday 7/2/17 (it was agreed there was no need to postpone due to proximity to holiday)

Camp Updates

Eric Davis – Camp Manager:

- Camp Population: 55 **confirm**
- Main focus has been work on dwellings – finishing "office" shelter - donated demo Costco model – more Costco "kits" are already on site but need additional work after assembled (roofing, insulation, paint), "Pod" from Mark Hubert's group coming next week. These are the two types of units that seem to work the best for the camp from what's been offered.
- 48 out of 50 platforms are installed – these support soft sided or hard sided "dwellings" (tents or tiny houses). 50 is the camp max.
- Grey water container has been purchased and delivered – will be set up this month (has to be plumbed)
- Additional Community tents have been set up – they now have separate Men's and Women's "dorm" tents up to provide clean/dry place for short term overnight guests – those that are not staying in the area or are going to apply for residence
- Camp will be holding a fundraising gathering on 7-2-17 from Noon to 6pm with blues/rock bands (Soulful 88's, Blues on Tap, other guests) - open to the public – attendees encouraged to bring something to share. Funds raised will go toward camp needs that are not covered by city contract (dwellings, food, housing assistance, etc) - FB event page and flyers being worked on.

Simon Stephens – Case Manager

- Has been working with camp for about a week – fist priority was to catch up on paperwork needed for each resident – that's complete – next step is to start working with residents to understand any barriers to housing/employment, work with them to resolve, and match them with housing and employment resources.
- 4 people have been housed this week

Camp Needs

- Meals – page and calendar have been set up to coordinate meals for the camp:
<http://patacara.org/cooking/>
- Dwelling Build – Project manager and volunteers to help build. The dwellings are fairly simple - camp residents and other volunteers can help build, but the camp members with the most skill

and experience in this area are working. A volunteer project manager and volunteer coordinator would be a huge help

- Housing and employment resource volunteers: Simon needs help following up on resources and leads – with the population growth of the camp, this is big job.
- Help with flyer for July 2 event

CAC concerns/questions/comments

- RVs and Trash on Myers way have increased significantly – also C2C trash was over-full this week
 - Camp – Polly has already ordered an additional pick-up – the increase in residents resulted in more than they were accustomed to – this should be resolved by the additional service
 - General area – the areas that trash is "gathered" (just outside camp parking lot, in front of cinder blocks across Myers to the North) were designated by the City before the camp was in place, and the City has committed to having them picked up regularly – 2-3 times per week. It does not seem like it is being done
 - Tom will follow up with city and find out what's happening with the pick ups
 - RVs – influx is due to sweeps under West Seattle Bridge and other areas – official time limit in one place is 72 hours – they can be tagged and asked to move, but they just continually shift around and eventually come back
 - General behavior is a concern to neighbors – trash, taking apart RVs on the road (there is a stripped hull there now), apparent drug and prostitution activities
 - CAC will put together a communication to send to the city requesting ongoing focus and help with the issues in the area that threaten the stability and success of the camp (increased patrols, trash pickup, containers for designated trash collection areas, etc). Will also request another City sponsored meeting in the area.
- Update on stewardship efforts at site:
 - Grace is interested in applying for a grant through King County related to storm water – she would like to tie it in to invasive species removal and hopefully be able to train and "employ" camp members to help remove weeds and do restoration work in parcels. Deadline is June 9 – Polly stated that camp would be willing to participate as long as they have explicit permission to work in the designates places (they were previously told they could not go beyond their fence). Grace will get permission – has already applied for permit.
 - A group toured the parcels (east and west of Myers) on 4/24 - Tour was hosted by Seattle Public Utilities and had been requested by Seattle Green Spaces Coalition - group included Councilmember Herbold, representatives of SPU, FAS, SGSC, Weed Warriors, Veterans Conservation Corps – purpose was to make contacts and get a better understanding of the area and issues. SPU will entertain proposals for stewardship efforts. VCC very interested in working with any veteran camp members.
- White Center Spring Clean recently coordinated by WC CDA – Aaron Garcia would like to coordinate with camp to extend event to Myers Way for Fall or next spring.

- Work on Camp website that is linked from the City's page will be done next week – Hunnie (former camp resident) will be training Willow to help make updates – they will work with camp to determine content updates.
- Are there minutes available from internal weekly camp meetings?
 - A: No – due to the personal nature of some of the discussions the Camp meeting details are not public.
 - They may be able to provide information on some of the non-private decisions and points
 - CAC members will work with camp to see if this can be added to the camp update portion of the CAC meeting

Community concerns/questions related to camp

- Mary: How will grey water be disposed?
 - A: Honey Bucket will pump out
- Fred: Is attendance at CAC meetings documented?
 - A: Yes – in the meeting notes. May notes will be posted to city page this week – Goal for future notes will be to have them compiled, reviewed and posted within 10 days
 - A sign-in sheet will be used at the next meeting
 - The recommendation was made to record the meetings for – this has been considered and will likely happen for future meetings when we are in an indoor venue
- Monthly camp budget information was requested
 - Accounting is done after month end so it's not usually available by meeting time – Polly will work on making information available monthly.
- Mary: Where will the band be setting up?
 - A: probably in the central open area facing in toward camp (north) - they may be bringing their own platform stage.
- Ben: Before Camp Second Chance showed up in the area, most of the RVs on the street had moved – the camp encourages others in RVs and in the woods to come to the area because it appears acceptable
 - A: RVs had moved to other areas but were not really gone – as they get sited and moved, they migrate around to numerous areas throughout the city. Multiple recent sweeps of other areas is likely biggest contributor to increases.

General community concerns/questions/comments (Not related to camp)

- (to Tom) - Will the non-sanctioned encampments in the area be swept soon?
 - A: They are on the list but no specific time set (referring to Navigation Team's priorities)
- Some neighbors have heard that new campers and RVs in the unsanctioned areas have driven out campers that had been there for a long time and might have provided some relative stability
- Officials need to stop trying to evict people from the planet – everyone has a right to exist and have access to basic services – the funds should be available to provide basic needs for people

- The key solution to resolving homelessness is affordable housing units – there are not enough units in the area – focus and funds should be directed toward housing first.