# Northlake CAC Meeting Minutes

**September 24, 2019   5:30pm**

**John Stanford International School**

***ACTION NOTE:  Unless further developments preclude it, the next CAC meeting will be on Tuesday October 22, 5:30 pm at John Stanford International School.****(4th Tuesday as usual.)*

*At that meeting, we hope to decide on an****alternative meeting location****for future meetings, since Sarah will be on maternity leave starting November and we won’t be able to meet at John Stanford School during that time.*

***CAC members, please research other possible meeting locations****in the neighborhood (close to Northlake so residents can access) so we can make decisions at the Oct. 22 meeting.*

**CAC members present:**Jami Fecher (chair of this meeting), Sarah Jones, Jordan Schwartz, Brooke Brod, Wendy Barrington, Ed Mast (notetaker)

**Others present:**  Jay Perry, John Travena, Marvin Futrell, Peggy Hotes, Duncan, Piper Hackett, Lori Perry, Kelly McCluskey, Spencer Ceballos, Becca Finkes, Diana Salazar, Lisa Gustaveson, Josh Castle, Jose Ruiz, Adrienne Easter, Will Uhlig

**AGENDA REVISION:**

Because of the current threat of disciplinary action by the Human Services Department (HSD) against LIHI and/or possible closure of Northlake Village, the meeting chair asked to start with a report by HSD members present. The report by Adrienne Easter from HSD gave rise to discussion, which Northlake residents present agreed to continue before coming to the regular Residents’ Report.  When that initial discussion lasted over an hour and beyond the scheduled time of the meeting, residents and case manager agreed to forego the oral delivery of their reports, agreeing to substitute the inclusion of their written reports at the end of these public minutes.  ***The Residents Report and Case Manager Report are at the end of these minutes, with only minor edits to their written draft as emailed to this notetaker.***

**DISCUSSION WITH HSD:**

Adrienne Easter of HSD reported:

• The Performance Improvement Plan for LIHI will be assessed on October 7, and needs to show at least incremental improvements if they are to continue the contract.  This will also impact the renewal or non-renewal of the permit which comes due in March.

• LIHI’s inability to access Northlake is an obstacle to improvement.

• Tiny house villages are “enhanced shelters”.   “Essentially it’s a shelter.”

• Key criteria for HSD assessment of LIHI:

1. A meeting with HSD and Northlake residents.  Regardless of residents’ stated concerns and preference, HSD demands that the meeting happen onsite at Northlake and with LIHI staff present.

2. LIHI needs to be able to access Northlake regularly, “as the contracted entity”.

3. Case Manager needs to be onsite Mon-Fri with residents working with Case Manager and entering HMIS date as needed.

• The Northlake spot is property of City Light.

• The first contract was a 6 month permit for tents.  As the program went on, more services were added and LIHI was brought in.  Contract has always been with LIHI. Nickelsville was brought in as one of the managers of sites.  HSD can’t contract directly with Nickelsville because Nickelsville does not satisfy all requirements for this contractor.  Contracts renegotiated each year.  Nickelsville was removed from contract in March 2019 when LIHI reported that MOU negotiation broke down.

[Several points here are disputed.]

\* Mayor and City Council support this contract.

[This was disputed by residents and CAC member, many of whom have heard differently from City Council members.]

Resident question: City Council members, even those who have not been our allies in the past, are saying that a mediation should happen between Nickelsville, LIHI and HSD.  It is highly unusual business practice for a business to refuse arbitration, as LIHI and HSD have repeatedly done.

Adrienne: Not HSD’s role to be in mediation. HSD considers Northlake a shelter.  Residents may identify with Nickelsville if they choose but must comply with LIHI rules.

Residents and Nickelsville staff offered clarification: Residents have repeatedly offered to meet with HSD. Northlake residents did not have a chance to vote on HSD’s recent demands about the meeting, because there was not a quorum at Northlake’s Sept 23 Monday meeting.  Other residents added: we will work with the City but don’t want LIHI interfering with our conversation.

CAC member: When the original contract and Request for Proposals (RFP) was offered for bids, only Nickelsville and SHARE/WHEEl applied.  Was there another RFP to allow other organization to bid, before LIHI was brought in?

Adrienne: No.  There was a declared state of emergency so this was a crisis response.

CAC member: This lack of transparent process in hiring LIHI contributes raises concerns of unfairness in process.

CAC member: HSD refusal to be part of mediated negotiation means HSD is inflexible on key points, which puts LIHI in an impossible position in negotiating with Nickelsville.

Adrienne: Yes HSD is inflexible on key points.

CAC member: Very concerning to hear HSD’s refusal to participate in negotiation, especially when there are huge disparities in power and hierarchies in this situation.  HSD and all in charge need to be open to examining their processes.  HSD has not been open or transparent, and this breeds inequities.  This is the opposite of what should be happening.  State of emergency does not excuse proceeding in an inequitable way.

Adrienne:  CAC is not where equity should happen.  We are responsible for hundreds of thousand of dollars.  We want to hear from people at the program level.

Resident: If everyone at the village votes that we don’t want LIHI, will you respect that vote?

Adrienne: No.  This is the program.  If you don’t want to be in a LIHI-run program, then this village is not where you should be.  You can be self-managed but underneath the direction of what the contractor says.

Residents expressed concern that HSD is not actually listening or trying to hear from residents.

CAC member to residents: You are making a grave mistake.  HSD’s position is unchangeable: LIHI is operator.  If Northlake doesn’t comply, village will be shut down.

Resident: I can go back and sleep in the woods

CAC: I don’t want to see that happen.  Nickelsville staff are holding you hostage.

Resident: There is one person at Northlake who would prefer LIHI.

LIHI REPORT:

• Case managers have been meeting with residents, progress is being made on HMIS data, only 4 people not registered.

• Aberra pest control came, inspected all units that were accessible, treated two units for bedbugs.

• If HSD meeting can happen with Northlake, LIHI is fine with having only one or two LIHI present.

Resident: Why are we the ones who always have to compromise on everything?  Our requests and grievances come back denied.

CAC member: Nickelodeons want split from LIHI.  Doesn’t that conflict with call for mediation?

Residents and another CAC member: we’ve been calling for mediation for almost a year.  Repeated refusal by LIHI and HSD, plus LIHI’s forced takeover of Othello Village, have forced us to call for split with LIHI.

CAC member:  We can help find and support a different place and circumstance for a Nickelsville village, possibly with church support on the religious ordinance.

Lisa Gustaveson (HSD):

• Yes to a different site.  We value the Tent City 3 model.  If on city property, however, any camp must follow all the HSD rules.

[This point is disputed.]

• HSD held a meeting [four years ago] inviting other service provider agencies to see if they wanted to operate tiny house village.  Consensus was that LIHI has it handled.  Lifelong’s providing of case managers did grow out of that meeting.

• Tiny house villages have been considered “enhanced shelters” since 2018.

[This point is disputed.]

• HSD has been telling LIHI: provide more consistent case managers.

• At proposed meeting of HSD with Northlake residents, LIHI presence is negotiable.

[This point is disputed.]

CAC member: We appreciate resident’s point about residents always being the ones expected to compromise.  Why shouldn’t all parties, especially those with more power and privilege, be flexible on key points?  HSD and LIHI should examine their processes to make them more flexible and open to residents’ input.

**RESIDENTS’ REPORT**

[as written by residents with minor edits]

September 2019 Northlake Report

**1.  CENSUS**

23 ADULTS

15 Men

7 Women

1Children

4 Couples

2 Families

3 Pets

No police calls

Move ins: 1

Move Outs: One person moved out to another Tiny House Village.  No one has moved into housing.

Future Move Outs:  The couple at camp who received a Voucher for housing two months ago still hasn’t been able to move out.  They continue to be hopeful they will be able to leave soon.

BARS

Several 3 day bars, including one of an individual who was hanging out with a permanently barred camper in the neighborhood.  The written rules he signed strictly forbid this.

The rules everyone signed were handed out at the weekly meeting 8 nights ago.  Everyone was warned they would start to be strictly enforced.  That includes the weekly meetings.

**2. DAILY ACTIVITIES IN THE VILLAGE**

The Drum Circle continues on Tuesday Nights.

Northlake decided to have a low-key party in honor of Nickelsille’s 11th Anniversary on Sunday.

We had a good time, and some friends dropped by.  We brought out the exhibit of Nickelsvilles History.  Thanks Pastor Jami and Gift of Grace for loaning us tables and chairs

Bus Tickets are being Issued Daily

Camp Meetings continue every Monday at 6 PM

***Clarification of Visitor Policy:***

*Visitors are welcome.  Because LIHI is attempting to Occupy Nickelsvilles, we can only let the LIHI Case Manager in.   HSD Staff should make appointments, because they have been supporting LIHI takeover efforts.*

*We don’t like having to keep our gates shut, but it is necessary.   The gates being shut makes us secure from the most immediate threat – a LIHI Occupation.*

**3. FOOD**

University Food Bank is bringing us food every Wednesday, and we are able to specify what kinds of things we want.  It includes milk, which is outstanding.

The University Sunrise Rotary Club keeps sending over breakfast once a week.

We appreciate very much the food from Amazon, and the dedicated Volunteers who bring it.   The delivery last Saturday was great.

*We would like to clarify again that Nickelsville did ask that a daily meal be provided at all the Nickelsville Camps two years ago.  To date this has never been done; Northlake does not receive any daily meal, or any other regular support from Operation Sack Lunch.  Over at Othello they did not get a daily meal from LIHI and Operation Sack Lunch until they were occupied on April 8th.*

**4. COMMUNICATION WITH LIHI**

Northlake hasn’t had a Case Manager come into the village since the last CAC Meeting.  All we know is that the Case Manager said to the CAC last month that he was told to not come to Northlake.

*[Note: This is seems to be disputed by LIHI’s report above, which states that Case Managers have been working with residents during this time.  Uncertain whether the case manager visits LIHI is referring are the same as LIHI staff visits on Sept 5-6 that are referred to in section 5 below.]*

We have not barred the Case Manager we had.  We did nothing that would warrant him not coming.

Besides him saying to the CAC last month he’d been yelled at, we don’t know why we don’t have a case manager.

We have not been told in writing another case manager would come, or their name.

We want a case manager as soon as possible, and we would like to know who it is before they show up – that’s common courtesy.

**SUPPLIES AND LIHI**

For the month of July the supply’s had worked okay.  We did just get a lot of supplies from LIHI next week, and we’ll send them that invoice on the 1st of October, like we have said.

We will tell them through the usual line of communication if we haven’t got supplies.

The August 16th supplies showed up, mostly, in late August.  September 6th Josh Castle told us the supplies we asked for on August 16th for women’s hygiene products and bed bug treatments wouldn’t be sent.  He had told us before they would be. This caused a lot of problems. On Monday September 9th a lot of supplies we asked LIHI for were instead brought by other donors. On September 13th two people from LIHI we hadn’t never seen brought a garbage bag and dairy crate of hygiene supplies, including women’s hygiene supplies.

Our September 17th supply request to LIHI was filled by them and they have been told that.

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**BED BUGS**

We wanted to treat the bed bugs internally, and asked LIHI for those supplies on August 16th.  At first Josh said yes, but then on September 6th he said no.

We got donors to give us a lot of supplies for treatments that we needed, and got a lot done ourselves.

Josh kept trying to go around our simple method of asking and answering supply and maintenance questions.  Finally, we managed to get a visit scheduled for today with the LIHI Chemical Exterminator.

We will keep cooperating with LIHI on bed bug treatments, but Josh has to communicate through email to staff@nickelsville.works.  We must insist on that so there are no misunderstandings.

**5.  HSD COMMUNICATIONS**

LIHI Staff came by on the 5th and 6th of September and tried to get in, and tried to argue with people about HMIS forms.

We will do what our written agreements said we’d do with HMIS if LIHI or HSD asks – but they won’t.  We can’t be blamed if they are trying to get things that we haven’t agreed to.

LIHI also said they and HSD were going to have a meeting at camp at 5:30 on September 9th.

We said in writing repeatedly we wouldn’t meet with LIHI, and that we would meet with HSD off site, as a group.

HSD called off coming on the day of the meeting.

We will still meet with HSD off site, as a group, with witnesses.  They just have to schedule it with our staff.

The Camp Leaders and other campers signed a Grievance against HSD for the false statements in the HSD Performance Review of LIHI.  They said the Case Manager Grievance of ours has been resolved.  It has not been resolved.  We still don’t have a Case Manager, and that isn’t a resolution.

They also are saying in private meetings things that aren’t true – like we will be closed.

We filed this Grievance like HSD  Contract Specialist Shaun Neal said we had to:  with the Seattle Customer Services Bureau.

Then HSD told us that we would have to file a grievance with HSD with LIHI.  That letter is from Jane Klein, in your packet.

Finally, last Friday Shaun Neal the Contract Specialist, showed up at Northlake without an appointment.  It wasn’t just for a surprise inspection.   It was to talk to us.  We let him in.  We may not, next time, if there is no appointment.

We have asked HSD repeatedly to schedule those visits/

We want to repeat that our Grievance against HSD is our Grievance against HSD.

Shawn Neal’s report contained many inaccurate statements and ignored many crucial areas – like how the camp was actually operating.  He didn’t talk to anyone who lived at Othello or Northlake, or anyone from Nickelsville before writing this report.

What is most outrageous is his claiming there was only one Grievance at Othello.

We know of four that were properly submitted in writing to LIHI.  HSD knows about them too, because they were handed them at LIHI meetings.    HSD has done zero to hold their so-called contractor accountable.

It is false that Nickelsville, including staff, leaders and residents, refused to cooperate with this programmatic review.  HSD and LIHI never tried to work with them.

We are not being treated like human beings by HSD or LIHI.

We will not be divided and conquered.

**6. NORTHLAKE RESIDENTS VISIT CITY HALL**

For the last two weeks Northlake Residents have gone to City Hall.  We have asked the Mayor in writing, and testified to the City Council, that LIHI should be found in violation of their Services Agreement at Northlake and fired.

We would then like a Religious Encampment Sponsor – and we know that Gift of Grace Lutheran Church would be willing – to take over the camp sponsorship.

We think this is much better than spending over a million dollars closing two camps, like the HSD Draft Budget said yesterday.  Nickelodeons from other sites and many friends also testified at two City Council meetings since the last Northlake CAC Meeting.

They too [Nickelodeons at other sites] have asked that at Northlake LIHI be fired and Nickelsville allowed to operate the camp with a religious encampment sponsor.

At Othello we asked that the residents who have put up with the disaster of the last 5 months be allocated, by the City of Seattle, a 10,000 sq. ft piece of land near Othello to move to for at least 2 years.  Religious sponsors have been identified for both Northlake and Othello.  We’ve given up trying to live and work with LIHI.  It’s clear they want to flood Othello with swept campers who will require a low barrier camp.  Its clear HSD plans to shut Northlake down.  That’s not what we agreed to or deserve.

**7. DEATHS OF HOMELESS PEOPLE SINCE THE LAST CAC MEETING**

Women in Black stood on September 18th for 5 more deaths of homeless people outside or by violence in King County.  84 Homeless People have died outside or by violence in King County this year already.  Homeless people are dying outside faster this year than even last year, which was a record.

**CASE MANAGER REPORT from Will Uhlig**

**August 28, 2019 to September 24, 2019**

* • One client moved from Northlake to another Tiny Village encampment.
* • I have been working with an advocate and friend of a Northlake client to help find the
client resources and an assisted living program.
* • One client has been corresponding with me by text messages.
* • Josh Castle has been corresponding with Northlake clients about bed bug abatement. An
inspection and treatment is scheduled once a Northlake CAC member agrees to be
present.
* • Homeless Management Information System intake was completed for some Northlake
clients. A few clients asked to look over the information longer and supportive services are awaiting their responses.

**NEXT CAC MEETING if there is one:**

**Tuesday October 22**

**5:30 pm**

**John Stanford School library**