

## **Othello Village Community Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes**

**Date / Time:** May 19, 2016, 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm

**Location:** The Station at Othello Park Apartments, 4219 S. Othello St, Seattle, WA 98118

**In attendance:**

- a) From Low Income Housing Institute (LIHI) – Josh Castle, Donnika (Dee) Dixon
- b) From Nickelsville – Scott Morrow, Kelly Lyons, Jeffrey Hirsch, Andrew Constantino
- c) From City of Seattle – Frank Nam, Department of Neighborhoods (DON)
- d) From Othello Village Community Advisory Committee: Dick Burkhart, David Chen, Mary Downs, Brian Mack, Mercedes Summers, Linh Thai (not in attendance: Pastor Ed Choi)

**Othello Village**

Address: 7544 Martin Luther King Jr. Way S., Seattle

Phone number: 425-615-0800

**History/Background of Othello Village**

Originally, the City sited seven potential sites for the three City-sanctioned encampments. The first three sites to be utilized were in Ballard, Interbay, and SoDo. The SoDo site, because of its proximity to electrical lines, proved to be unfit/unsafe for an encampment site. Meanwhile, the Low Income Housing Initiative (LIHI) had acquired two properties in the Othello neighborhood with intention to develop as affordable housing. LIHI proposed that this site be used as the third encampment while they are waiting for funding to be secured and design approval (at least two years). City approved this plan. LIHI is the property manager and provides case management services. Nickelsville is the site operator.

**Othello Village Community Advisory Committee**

For each of the three City of Seattle sanctioned encampments, there is a requirement that the encampment operator establishes a 7-person Community Advisory Committee. Each CAC member should represent a different stakeholder group/perspective. This group is responsible for advising on encampment operations, identifying strategies for handling community complaints/concerns.

## Minutes of Meeting

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### 1) Updates from Nickelodeons (aka Othello Village Residents)

- a) Number of people living at Othello Village - 51 people including seven children and 6 couples. 6 people move out, 2 to an apartment.
- b) 2 incidences where Seattle Police Department was called in the last month - One a medical emergency, one a domestic dispute.
- c) SPD officer volunteers to come by weekly and play with the kids.
- d) Many residents are finding part or full time work.
- e) Nickelodeons participated in the following community events.
  - i) 6 Nickelodeons attended a pizza party at a local church.
  - ii) Every third Sunday a community dinner at the Rainer Community Center 4:30 pm.
  - iii) Ethiopian Community Center hosted a dinner and health clinic.
  - iv) MLK Jr street clean up and Bridge to Beach clean up.
  - v) Seattle University Rotaract Dinner sponsored by Seattle International District Rotary was held on May 14 and raised money for Nickelsville and LIHI.
  - vi) Dearborn Encampment clean up.
  - vii) Emerald City Block Party – hosted an information table.
  - viii) Sunday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> Othello Village Open House BBQ 2-5 pm & Community Potluck.
  - ix) Part of Nickelsville contribution to the community is a regular community service hours that they require from their residents (i.e. litter pick up).
  - x) Participation in the Southeast District Council.
  - xi) Drop in tours of Othello Village anytime - Use the main entrance on MLK Jr. Way.
  - xii) Some of the projects that are currently in the works:
    - (1) Development of a Resource Center on site: computer, job search.
    - (2) Youth Tent for activities for children.
    - (3) Othello Village Completion Party – Sunday, June 5, 11:00 am – 5:00 pm – Professional mural, collage making, live music, food, volunteer activities, family-friendly, all-ages. 11:00 am – 5:00 pm. Volunteer shifts: 11 pm – 2 pm, 2 pm - 5pm. Speakers at 2 pm. Donations welcome.

### 2) LIHI Case Manager Reports

- a) Two families are about to move out to housing.
- b) Two people have moved into permanent housing.
- c) LIHI continues to oversee case management for residents.

### 3) Action items for next meeting

- a) Website planning for the Othello Village – working on domain name and management.

#### 4) Upcoming Events

- a) Othello Village Tour- Sunday, May 22, 2 pm – 5 pm, Othello Village Open House BBQ and Community Potluck.
- b) Othello Village Completion Party – Sunday, June 5, 11:00 am – 5:00 pm - Professional mural, collage making, live music, food, volunteer activities, family-friendly, all-ages. 11:00 am – 5:00 pm. Volunteer shifts: 11 pm – 2 pm, 2 pm - 5pm. Speakers at 2 pm. Donations welcome.

#### 5) Questions/Discussion

- a) What is the criteria for entrance to Othello Village?
  - i) Families need to go through LIHI - Call them or apply on the LIHI website.
  - ii) Screening through Sex offender list.
  - iii) Call the Othello Village phone number 425-615-0800 to inquire about availability.

#### 6) Resources

- a) LIHI website – [www.lihi.org](http://www.lihi.org)
- b) Article on Othello Village opening - <https://lihi.org/2016/03/08/othello-village-tent-city-opens/>
- c) Nickelsville – [www.nickelsvilleworks.org](http://www.nickelsvilleworks.org)
- d) Othello Village wish list <https://sites.google.com/a/nickelsville.org/home/how-you-can-help>
- e) City of Seattle - Homeless information- <http://murray.seattle.gov/category/homelessness>
- f) FAQ on Seattle's response to Homelessness - <http://murray.seattle.gov/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/11.2.15-Homelessness-FAQ.pdf>