

Othello Village Community Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Date / Time: June 16, 2016, 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm

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

In attendance:

- From Low Income Housing Institute (LIHI) –Josh Castle, Dee Dixon
- From Nickelsville – Andrew Constantino, Jeff Hirsch, Kelly Lyons, J.R. Omher
- From City of Seattle – Frank Nam, Department of Neighborhoods (DON)
- From Othello Village Community Advisory Committee: Mary Downs (not in attendance: Dick Burkhardt, David Chen, Pastor Ed Choi, Brian Mack, Mercedes Summers, Linh Thai,)

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 the electrical lines, proved to be unfit/unsafe for an encampment site. Meanwhile, the Low Income Housing Institute (LIHI) had acquired two properties in the Othello neighborhood with the 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). The 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 establish a 7-person Community Advisory Committee. Each CAC member should represent a different stakeholder group/perspective. This group is responsible for advising on encampments operations, identifying strategies for handling community complaints/concerns.

Minutes of Meeting

A) Introductions

B) Progress of village development

- Email from Monica read that there are 26 Tiny Houses currently and more are coming for a total of 32 tiny houses.
- New Tiny Houses from Tulalip Tribes & Sawhorse Revolution are now onsite. These are beautiful structures.
- Tiling & painting volunteers will be needed. Many are interested in interior painting.
- Many residents are happy with the unpainted “rustic” look of the new houses.
- Non-stop interest for staying at Othello by those in need. Daily calls and visits, village stays full.
- LIHI placing families into housing on a regular basis.
- Lack of space is a concern as the village continues to grow.

C) Case Manager reports

- 8 residents moved into housing, LIHI found housing for 4, others working with LIHI now.
- 4 connected with Mary’s Place.
- 4 found employment.
- 1 couple set up with identification & employment.
- 5 unfinished houses.

D) Updates from Nickelodeons

- Village Census: 47 adults, 16 women, 6 children, 3 couples, 3 families, 7 pets.
- 2 emergency calls, both for the same resident regarding injuries from outside village.
- Detective Cookie a big help; more food donations being brought.
- New donor, Rebecca, helping with many needs including solar power. Amazing person!
- Documentary film crew visit. Hannah & Mike from New York researching for a film and conducted interviews.
- Reporter from Next City Blog coming to spend a night at Othello Village June 17.
- Visit by Barbara Poppe, advisor to City concerning homelessness. Recommendations to come.
- Othello Village Celebration. More about it below.

E) Report back on Othello Village Celebration

- Othello Village Celebration was a big success! Nickelodeons, neighbors, church groups, LIHI, and guests attended.
- Speeches by Deputy Mayor Hyeok Kim, Sharon Lee (LIHI Executive Director), Melinda Nichols (LIHI Board President), Pastor Lawrence Willis (President of the United Black Christian Clergy), Ty Juvinel and Teri Gobin of the Tulalip Tribes, Susan Davis (Executive Director of the Rainier Valley Chamber of Commerce).
- Music by Raging Grannies and Lady A. Lady A sang with Othello resident.
- Great food.
- Inspiration Flags painted with the kids. Mural painted with volunteers & guests.
- Over 20+ tours given to local neighbors & church groups.
- Raffle winners.
- Very hot day.
- 100+ visitors.
- 2 Nickelodeons spoke.

F) Action items for next meeting (July 21)

- Contact Sack Lunch program at Othello Park. (Mary?)
- Frank offers to look into kids programs this summer.
- Dee & Stephanie will work on getting passes for pool/events for kids & families.
- Website on track? Let's ask Mercedes.

G) Questions & Discussion

- Talked about the value of Othello Village in regards to addressing homelessness. It's exciting to see so many people willing to give of their time & resources.
- Many other states are interested in this model.

H) Closing Thoughts – Othello has been a blessing & expression of community.