

Minutes for Plum Street Village Community Advisory Committee Meeting of July 8, 2019

This was the first meeting of the Plum Street Village – Community Advisory Committee (PSV-CAC). The purpose was to get to know each other, discuss the experiences of CACs in Seattle, listen to a report on Plum Street Village and define our roles and responsibilities.

The meeting started at 4pm. The attendees included Josh Castle from LIHI who organized the meeting, CAC members Marlo Martinez-OMC Olympia Community CT, John Brown, Sarah Burdette and Cierra Driscoll from LIHI-Plum Street village staff; Brad Morrill and Peter Cook from Faith Alliance Initiative for Tiny Houses; Audrey Marshall, Brad Archibald and Nathan Allan from Eastside Neighborhood Association; Talitha Thalya from Eastside and Oly Farmers' Market, Warren Carlson from Olympia Rotary and SideWalk; Pablo Matute from St. Michael Parish Men's Shelter, Colin DeForrest from City of Olympia; and several resource people from LIHI (Brad Gerber, Luke Reynolds, Hattie Rhodes, and Andrew Constantino)

After the welcome and introductions, Pablo Matute volunteered as Chairman for the meeting and Peter Cook as Minute Taker. The meeting started with an opening statement by Josh Castle describing the purpose (see above) and a description of the Partners and services provided at PSV. Luke Reynolds gave some background on the Low Income Housing Institute which manages PSV under contract to the City of Olympia. LIHI has operated several tiny house villages (THVs) in Seattle for seven years.

Colin DeForrest described the background of PSV and its linkage to managed and unmanaged encampments and City policy. PSV opened in March 2019, after being built in 4 months by LIHI with the help of hundreds of community volunteers, several of whom were in the room.

He pointed out that PSV is not low barrier on purpose and it focuses on being transitional housing with the goal of moving people through to more permanent housing (e.g. apartments) in 3-6 months, but this will vary among individual residents. "Everyone has a chance to succeed."

Josh and other LIHI resource people described the role that the Community Advisory Committees play in other tiny house villages. It is a committee of neighbors, community leaders and stakeholders. CACs usually meet monthly for 1 to 1 ½ hours and hear a report of what has been happening in the village, statistics and results from the staff and case managers. The idea is to bring forth questions, concerns, issues, problems and good things about the village operation. Josh volunteered to document the roles of CACs in Seattle tiny house villages with the help of LIHI resource people.

There was a motion for PSV-CAC to meet monthly, which passed unanimously.

There was a discussion of whether and when PSV residents could contribute to the CAC. It was noted that this was the norm in the Seattle THVs, usually with the staff bringing residents who show an interest (natural leaders). **It was agreed unanimously that the PSV-CAC would have participation by PSV residents.**

There was some discussion of when resident participation would be best for the CAC. Some argued right away and others said we should take some time to get acquainted and get our act together before involving residents. This decision was left open, with the possibility that it would happen by the third or fourth CAC meeting. There is a need for residents to feel a part of the CAC, in order to get buy-in from them that it is a good forum for discussing their concerns. Possibly some residents would be invited to listen but not speak in the early meetings, by the CAC. The mode of resident participation will be a regular topic for CAC meetings.

There was a discussion of where CAC meetings should take place, at the Village or somewhere else. It was agreed to be within walking distance of the Village, but not at the Village. The Billy Frank Jr. building is available for meetings since it is operated by LIHI.

It was agreed unanimously to meet in the Billy Frank Jr building and to meet on second Mondays at the same time as this first meeting (4-5pm)

John Brown, PSV manager, gave out a map of the village and gave a report indicating

- There are currently 34 residents in 32 tiny houses.
- They wanted more people in the village, but had trouble finding couples
- 6 people have moved out successfully and been replaced by new residents since March
- Some people moved in temporarily but could not deal with the rules (we will get more info on this by the next meeting)
- There are buildings for case management, kitchen, common meeting area, a hygiene trailer and an outdoor seating area (see map)
- There are 4 computers in the Village common areas which residents can sign up to use
- There is an art project in the village with a mosaic mural

Cierra Driscoll gave a report with some statistics. She listed the Partners who are involved with the Village (See attachment with partners and names of regular visitors from each.)

For statistics, she noted that 22 residents (65%) earn/receive a monthly income (see attachment for income sources). The age distribution in the village is wide but 56 % are in the range of 25-55 years old. (see report).

CAC members were provided with a folder containing the PSV Code of Conduct, the PSV Intake Form and the PSV Donation Wish List.

Josh Castle suggested that all members of the CAC visit the Village to check in during the month and get to meet some residents.

Peter Cook pointed out that we had not really discussed the CAC roles and responsibilities. **Josh said that he would put this on the agenda for the next meeting. He also said he would send a contact list to everyone.**

The meeting adjourned at 5:25pm.

Respectfully Submitted
Peter Cook, Minute Taker Pro Tem