Houseless Committee Meeting Notes

1/25/21 @ 5:30 pm

Agenda

* Introductions and announcements
* Finalizing committee name
* Administrative updates (Eaen Goss): Committee Google Drive/email list
* Discussion with Ash Hester: What happens at a sweep? How can neighbors prepare?
* Guest Speakers: Jessie Maran and Matt Lembo from the Sunnyside Safety and Livability Committee
* Setting next meeting time
* Final questions/wrap-up

Committee name:

**Houselessness Action Committee (HAC)**

Houseless Committee

Housing Committee

Sunnyside update:

Ash – gear drive last weekend (Saturday) at SE Uplift

* Donation dropoff, huge turnout
* Sunday: popup at Sunnyside park, got rid of ¾ donations (went to community)

Sunnyside Community Safety and Livability Committee

* Jes: board has been doing so much since June-July, came together after a large group of folks moved to Sunnyside Park from Laurelhurst Park
	+ Wanted to figure out how to help unhoused neighbors get day to day stability, ensure safety
	+ Wanted to engage housed neighbors who were opposed
	+ Crew doing regular litter pick-up, do outreach
	+ Personal hygiene resources – porta-potties and showers
	+ Winter gear drive (Ash mentioned)
	+ Partnerships with other orgs, like Beacon PDX
* Sweeps having a negative impact – where can people be? Focusing on sanctioned cites
	+ Rep. Nosse sent out a letter to urge county and city officials to take emergency action
	+ Matt: Current “ping-ponging” between Laurelhurst and Sunnyside is showing issues with the current policies – where can people go? No acceptable answer
	+ Asking for sanctioned sites where people won’t be asked to leave short term
	+ Neighborhoods need to come together and realize this is something we all need to solve
	+ Rep Nosse: What we’re currently doing is not working. Not enough shelter will become available
		- Needs us to come together to create political pressure
		- Until we get more permanent resources this is the situation we’re in
	+ Jes: Not easy, we recognize there is conflict
		- This system is unworkable and deadly for people
		- We want to understand people’s concerns, get help identifying sites, offer help to other neighborhoods
	+ Ash: There are successful campsites operating in Portland right now, but they are at max capacity/have waitlists
		- Hazelnut Grove being closed down, so actually losing space
	+ Tina: Should we reach out to other coalitions?
		- Eaen: Trying to attend N Portland meeting in the future, meeting with Mary
	+ Kimberlea: Have you reached out to Office of Civic Life?
		- Jes: No, but have worked with other programs
		- Kimberlea: Trying to connect with new community safety program
	+ What are we picturing in our minds when we say “sanctioned camp” – doesn’t necessarily need to be a formal structure?
		- Emergency level: Need a site where people can have their living space and not be subject to sweeps
		- Need to meet COVID criteria, waste disposal needs
		- Stuart: C3PO is an all-star example, thinking about needing a place for folks to direct services (so they can be reached by social services, etc.)
		- Tina: Private lot of land where services could exist and people could live
			* Could potentially be liability issues
			* Jes: the liability question is a barrier, interested in hearing from folks who have background/expertise in that area
			* Ash: Churches are a good ally for this work, also other non-profits. There is a lot of land that is not being used
			* Kimberlea: Faith groups have committed to using land to build housing, just need funding. Will reach out (<https://www.leaven.org/land-housing-organizing>)
		- Jes: Does anyone have a personal relationship with someone who is houseless?
			* Developing relationships is very rewarding. Checking assumptions and perspective. Reach out and say hello to people
			* This is policy but also caring for people who live in our neighborhoods
	+ Setting next meeting – once a month
		- Organizational report and neighborhood report (two guest speakers) per meeting
			* What are organizations that could help support these sanctioned camps – getting others on board
		- Thanks to Sunnyside for presenting!
		- Next meeting: February 22nd (4th Monday) at 5:30