**SE Uplift Houselessness Action Committee (HAC)**

**Minutes**

**2/22/21 at 5:30 pm**

* Introductions and announcements
* Neighborhood action sharing
* Guest speaker and discussion
  + Lessons from the C3PO camp – Raven Drake, Street Roots
* Committee mission and vision discussion
* Final questions/wrap up

# Introductions and Announcements

* Introductions from attendees
  + Add to list? Jan (Laurelhurst), Jeff Burns (Buckman)
* Dave – putting together SOLVE Team in Kerns
* Overview of committee: Our basic mission and vision focuses on connecting neighbors with resources. Collaborative space to share ideas.

# Lessons from the C3PO Camp

Raven Drake, Street Roots

* Found support through JOIN, city signed off on plan for C3PO camp
* Initially were planning to build for 3 months
  + Built camps within 2 weeks, fast turnaround
    - Figured out shortcomings through this process
  + 3 months – Raven was medical coordinator for 3 camps, worked with other professionals with experience with camp-lead medical programs
    - Now working on Ambassador program, supporting other communities
* Didn’t originally plan for longevity of camp – this was a mistake they learned from. Look for partnerships to offset the cost.
  + Process of renting bathrooms, showers, etc. was not sustainable, built partnership with Cascadia Clusters to have more permanent trailers put in
* Wrap-around services that were built at C3PO were requirements from the city
  + Original proposal was that the camps would be staffed for 2 weeks, then villagers who lived in camp would take over. This process took more time due to city restrictions and training did not happen as plans
    - Small rough patch where managers needed to be rehired – residents should be integrated into structure and management as soon as possible
    - Now that residents are responsible for the camp, they are figuring out rules, governance, etc. Conditions in camp have improved
* Weekly counsels of residents meet to encourage self-sufficiency
  + We want the people living there to be invested in it
* Initially tried to grow too big too fast
  + Original plan to have 300 people between 3 camps, reduced to 142 to ensure safety and camp manageability
  + It’s okay to start with a smaller camp and grow over time, helps reduce volunteer burnout
    - Benefit to establishing core group of villagers
* City is looking to move camps to permanent places now
* Within first three weeks of living in a camp:
  + People are adjusting to new surroundings, getting to know neighbors
  + Most people haven’t lived in a village setting, so it can take a while to get used to it. Learning requirements to participate
* Cost to run 3 camps about $70,000 – camps would take about $40,000 to get started but if villagers take on responsibilities those costs are reduced to about $10,000 a month
  + Figuring out how much volunteers are willing to take on vs. paid staff
* Portland Interfaith Alliance – building 2 camps
* Raven happy to share documentation about how camp was build/coordinated
  + This is a snapshot from a city-run project

## Discussion

* Matt: can you describe the process of building that peer community? Any advice?
  + Took a look at village and camps model after C3PO – barebones starting staff: 1-2 people to manage site to begin with, 1-2 people to focus on reviewing applications (or other process) for residents. 3-4 people total who can commit to about a month
  + Starting with basic rules for camp (regarding trash pickup, etc.), then forming a council where every resident participates
    - The council then establishes rules based on their needs
* Jes: What does 40k startup cost include?
  + 2 camps – shower trailer, porta-potties
  + Original camp had 2 site managers, Camp Life Coordinator (direct representative for residents to go to for assistance), plus social worker
    - Could be volunteers
  + Cost of land, some groups have found land to cut out that cost
  + Most of cost is renting and servicing of bathrooms and shower stations
* Kimberlea: are the properties the camps are on rented from Prosper Portland?
  + Arrangement made by city, so not totally sure
  + Biggest barrier that anyone will have with these camps is finding the property to put it on
    - Otherwise one of these camps can be put together in a matter of weeks
    - Peer led, stewardship model is highly recommended to ensure camps are well maintained
    - Prosper Portland losing funding, can we advocate for use of that space?
    - There are so many vacant parcels of land, the ability to house people is there
    - Reluctance from city around stewardship, biggest hurdle
      * Campers took care of camp, voted out folks who were causing issues. Banding together as a community to watch out for each other
* Tiffany: Who owns land for camp being created? Once it’s turned over to residents, what happens if things to go awry?
  + - Portland Interfaith Alliance owns their own land
    - Residents agreed to core rules upon moving in. If camp rules are not being followed, the camp can be closed down. Campers also have the right to advocate for what they need (give and take brings balance)
  + Dave: Checklist resource for starting a new village (who to contact, etc).
    - Raven has master list and will share, including contacts with the city and grant information
    - Dave: can this be added to a webpage?
      * Yes, knowledge only has power if we share it!
  + Stuart: How long to people stay at camps? Where do they go next? How can NAs support/create these camps?
    - It depends on the village, some people stay a long time. Camps envisioned as a stopping point rather than a permanent home – first 150 folks in camps are now in permanent housing! Great for folks waiting on housing lists. Some people will want to stay, but others will use this as a steppingstone
    - Within all neighborhoods there are vacant properties – help identifying land. Support from neighborhood makes a huge difference, helps people feel valued.
      * People need to understand their presence is valued, then camps really have an opportunity to succeed
  + Dave: Housed neighbors could work in tandem with villagers. Village should be positive for the neighborhood, it’s important to have this connection
  + Raven will send information to everyone and is willing to come back and talk more
  + Jes: Sunnyside Neighborhood has been identifying vacant land – it would be awesome to use this group as a way to collaborate outside neighborhood boundaries
* Stuart: creating mission, vision, objectives document is next step for the committee
* Tina: SE Uplift putting together a letter to go with Rob’s to share with other coalitions. Also finding a councilmember who could help us champion this (suggestion is Dan Ryan)
  + Adding to agenda to next meeting
  + Jes: Community First Statement could be a starting point for that conversation (<https://www.uniteoregon.org/policing>)
  + Kimberlea: Email from Unite about Portland Police Association shared by Andy (<https://www.uniteoregon.org/policing>)
    - Brooklyn signed onto letter, consider signing on as well
  + Stuart: Moving forward, using these documents and others to come up with our guiding principles and values (to share with board)
* Matt: please keep sharing the work of this group with others, especially folks who may not agree

Next meeting: Kimberlea – sharing PSU research opportunity next meeting