

# Houselessness Action Committee Meeting Notes

## March 22, 2021 at 5:30 pm

### Agenda

- Introductions and announcements
- Neighborhood updates
- Committee mission and vision discussion
- Upcoming advocacy and volunteer opportunities
  - WE SHINE
  - Shelter Now
  - Family Promise Metro East
  - Policy Involvement
- Final questions/wrap-up

### Introductions and Announcements

- Kimberlea: PSU undergrad research assistant, working on project to change negative stereotypes of the houseless community through comic project: <https://www.pdx.edu/homelessness/changing-narrative-through-cartooning>. Also looking for student interviews. Please share with networks! Deadline 3/31 (for comic artists). Once project is complete (likely in the summer), it would be great to share the stories with our networks
  - Street Roots doing distribution!
  - Jes: NA newsletters could be a good place to share. Sunnyside developing communications plan about this topic.
- Dave: Kerns dumpster cleanups at camps by Pepsi building, every 2 weeks. Inspired by Sunnyside NA. When doing garbage cleanups should we be offering other aid to the camps? Will be reaching out to folks in the camps

### Committee Mission and Vision Discussion

Feedback received:

- Action vs. resource sharing
- Coordinate actions together
- Capacity building rather than service-based
- Be explicit with who can be involved
  - Including unhoused folks, experiences to help guide group's work
- Accountability + Metrics - leave with homework, come back with ideas (feedback loop)
  - Threads from one meeting to the next (sense of progress/accountability/relationship building)

## We Shine

- Dave: newly formed group in response to Portland RFP process
- Jan: Involving 3 neighborhoods: Laurelhurst, Kerns, Sullivan's Gulch (crossing neighborhood boundaries)
  - Finding a way to site micromanaged villages in neighborhoods
  - Approached other SE neighborhoods, worked together to apply for funding
  - Developed shared vision of starting small and finding privately owned sites, then expanding out to other neighborhoods
  - Working with Street Roots
  - Self-governed camps, people with lived experience being hired to serve as coordinators
- DJ: Land Use Chair with Sullivan's Gulch. Found 3 things compelling: taking initiative at neighborhood level to take action (top-down approach not working), scale is important (should be manageable and dispersed), camps built on private property. Engagement of public/private partnership important
- JoAnn: Lived in Laurelhurst for almost 30 years, projects seen haven't been proactive on social service side. This is a proactive project, more sustainable in the long run
- Andy: Cascadia Clusters – started about 3.5 years ago in Hazelnut Grove. Brought in different partners to help set the communities up. Need a social service component to what they do, which is why the partnership with We Shine is beneficial
  - Ready to build 18 units
  - Open house on April 11<sup>th</sup> at worksite

## Planning for Next Meeting

- Discussing opportunities with schools (Ash) and continuing conversation around providing services during cleanups (Dave)
  - Impact NW after school program (Jeff)
- Next meeting: April 26<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm