

Sunnyside Neighborhood Association, Crime & Livability Committee Meeting

September 4th, 2018

Sunnyside Community House
3520 SE Yamhill

SNA Board Members Present

Pat Scweibert, Committee Co-Chair
Russell Rinaldi, Committee Co-Chair
Dave Boush
Matt Lembo

Neighbors & Guests

Name	Email	Address
Rich Oskin	richardoskin@hotmail.com	3328 SE Taylor
Lee Lancasters	leelancaster.9@gmail.com	1253 SE 32nd Place
Ann Kopel	annkopel1@gmail.com	1253 SE 32nd Place
David Ramsey	ramsed@yahoo.com	3705 SE Yamhill St
Karoline Gottschild	ramsed@yahoo.com	3705 SE Yamhill St
Trev Howard		3712 SE Yamhill St
Jeannette		3712 SE Yamhill St
Radiyca		
Aaron		3729 SE Yamhill St.
Lidwien Rahman		3617 + 3717 SE Yamhill
Lee Greer	leegreer@fastmail.fm	
Patrick F. Kirk	patrickfkirk@hotmail.com	
Donna Cassioli		3723 SE Yamhill

Philberta Leung	philbertaleung@gmail.com	935 SE 35th
Aixe ("Lealila") Djelal	adjelal@gmail.com	3638 SE Yamhill
Christine Kosonen	cealila@gmail.com	3735 SE Yamhill St
KC Hoffert	kchoffert@gmail.com	3535 SE Morrison
Heather	htcoconut@gmail.com	3747 SE Washington St
Mark		37th & Belmont
John Mayer	johnemayer@gmail.com	3317 SE Washington
Bill Toepper	sonarspop2002@yahoo.com	915 SE 35th Ave
Joe Perkins	theepiphanizer@gmail.com	The Streets!
Maureen Porter	maureen@thirdrailrep.org	

Meeting called to order at 6:32pm

Discussion of homeless population living in Sunnyside Park

Opening remarks, Pat:

- SNA spending time and energy on Livability, Sustainability of houselessness
- Mentioned NextDoor posts, but important to be in the room together

Introductions:

Maureen Porter, Third Rail Theater, rents rehearsal space in the Church

Joe, "Homeless, Penniless Guitarist"

Tim, Portland Street Medicine

John Mayer, Exec. Director of the Community House

Mark Millan, Resident

Heather, Resident

K.C., Resident

Aishea, Resident since 1987

Roberta, Resident in and out since January

Patrick, Resident since 1988

Lee, Resident since 1982

Levine, Resident since 2010

Resident for 3 years

Nadia, Resident for 32 years

- Berated for asking why are we feeding people in this neighborhood?
- Tired of being shamed and bullied and demeaned for asking this question.
- Life was threatened recently by a person in the park.
- Furious and despondent and depressed.
- Don't tell me I don't know what it's like [has been diagnosed with mental illness and lives on \$900 per month]

Jeanette, Resident for 2 years

- Disappointed

Trev

Karoline

- Finds the decline discouraging
- Need to find a more practical solution to helping people who need help with more than food

David, Resident for 20 years

Kate, Resident for 4 months

Ann & [HUSBAND], Resident for 31 years

Rich, Resident for 15 years

Lealila, Resident for 12 years

- Started neighborhood watch because of feelings of endangerment and isolation
- Uncomfortable letting children be outside on their own

Donna, Resident for 13 years

Mary Ann Schwab!

- I'm going to stay here until they take me out in a box
- Neighborhood is ballooning

Ann - Back in the day there was a drug house on 32nd and a tow truck driver intentionally ran over a cat. House robbed 3 times. I wouldn't let my children out alone until they were big enough to not be picked up. All this to say, this is not a brand new problem. Purposefully didn't want to walk past the corner. Not afraid for my life here and now.

David -- things have gotten much worse this year. My 8th grade daughter feels unsafe in a designated school corridor.

[Crosstalk] Some expressing a difference between houseless neighbors and housed residents. "We pay to live here."

Joe -- I've been homeless in the neighborhood for about 2 years. Taken the time to get to know the houseless people in the neighborhood.

[Crosstalk]

- We should have an agenda and an agreement about the purpose of the meeting before we start making soapboxes.
- Impact on the school and the safety of the kids.
- I know the problems are so much bigger than Sunnyside.
- Kids are getting education about what to do when needles are found, etc.

Lee - let's hear from Joe.

Joe - Last summer HBBA paid private security and requested additional PPD presence to sweep us out, so now we're here. It's all kinds of people out there who have been dealing with being pushed from place to place. Most of the people out there can't remember what it's like to have a house or a bathroom. I wish I could do more to help with the needles and other behaviors, but I can't. Hungry people get agitated really fast and shutting down the Community House won't make us leave.

Maureen - I live in a different neighborhood dealing with the same issues. Fundamentally reasonable right to feel safe in your home. Are we lumping everyone together under the umbrella of violent, drug users? It might be shutting down how we're hearing each other.

Pat - People have been asking about bringing others who need services here and Pat has said "No." CH is tasked only with providing services to people in this neighborhood.

Trev - But these people are still coming here.

Joe - Freedom isn't always comfortable.

Trev - What does that mean?

Lidwein - It used to be that the houseless people who were our neighbors were respectful, polite, etc. New people are not respectful, polite, etc. I work downtown as a public servant and don't want to deal with this when I come home every day.

John - This conversation is happening at Catlin Gable. Found two guns on the playground. I've picked up needles on my campus and have had to pick up broken bottles and needles everyday. This is not a neighborhood problem. This is an everywhere problem.

David - My 8th grade daughter is no longer comfortable walking to school.

John - I'm fairly new to this work. I had a life change and had to chop some vegetables. During that time I learned that my neighbors include many, many more people that I used to. Everybody is existing in the same place and we have to share it. There are many different groups of homeless individuals. "The Dirty Kids" or travelers are not the entirety of who we're talking about. Sunnyside Park has seen the same number of reports every summer for last 5

years. **REPORTING IS IMPORTANT since it leads to action.** We need to talk about what is happening that people are concerned about and come up with solutions for those problems. People need to eat, they need clothes, they need to be clean. If we could do more we would. We don't have the volunteers to make that happen. Please, please be in touch. Offer a problem, nudge toward a solution.

KC - Hard to find a common problem statement. **Is there a way to come up with a list of problem statements?**

Pat - How to make our children safer.

Lealila - More neighborhood watch. We need to activate neighbors instead of letting them fall into despair. *How do we deal with the population that is very volatile? The face of homelessness has changed - it is more dangerous.

Pat - Do we want to have somebody come in for de-escalation training? What can we as SNA do?

Trev, Jeanette and others - Don't serve them!

Lealila - Do people lose access to services if they are being disruptive or violent?

Pat - Yes. We do not serve people who are being aggressive.

Lealila - **Interested in de-escalation training.**

Rich - Can we keep people out of the park?

Joe - It's a public park.

Mary Ann - No Officer Friendly anymore.

Pat - We do know that the park is a problem.

Ann - We could write City Council and take the Sunnyside Park off the park list. (Make it part of PPS?). We need to start documenting and turning in reports over and over and over.

Pat - **Let's do some research and find out if we can do anything about the ownership of the park being transferred to PPS.**

Ann - **Can we hire our own patrol or other private security officer to patrol the area?**

Heather - Can we hear more from the foot patrol people?

Patrick - It has been shown that it does help to have people on the street reporting crime (there's an app for that! PDX Reporter). We do get results when we concentrate on particular problem areas and provide real details. At the very least it goes to statistics.

Lealila - Can we do more night walks?

SNA - We need the volunteers!

Rich - Posting on NextDoor doesn't mean anything. [MRL: Education regarding the effects of Social Media (esp. NextDoor) on perception of events / people?]

Russell - Crime in this area has dropped 50% since last summer.

Lidwein - I don't want us to just focus on crime, since not everything that bothers us is illegal. It's about livability. We don't want to just rely on the police.

Heather - I agree that this is about getting more people involved. It's going to take a while. We can't just shout about it. That makes us more isolated. A lot of people are saying they want to step up. Give us a small, tangible thing and we'll own it.

Rich - Foot patrol is more effective than Neighborhood Watch (NW is block by block).

Lealila - Just being present changes your neighborhood.

Pat - That's part of what Neighborhood Watch is; getting to know your neighbors.

Trev - I really appreciate what everyone is doing to help people. Last summer there was a period of time when the transient population focused in on this area. When people were allowed to sleep here, everything went sideways. I would like to hear from Pat a promise that she will not open the Community House to overnight stay again.

Pat - Our intent was not to make it a permanent homeless shelter. What we saw [last summer] in the rest of the neighborhood is that people are sleeping in the park or on the street or in storefronts. Our hope was to get people out of the park and off the streets. When it didn't work we shut it down. I apologize for putting the community at risk.

Joe - [Heading out]. Something I've learned dealing with the aggressive folks [currently inhabiting Sunnyside Park] is that I can't expect to change them, I can't expect to punish them, there's really not much that can be done. I've found it's a lot easier to change how I look at it than to try to grab that bull by the horns.

Dave - How do we deter the new aggressive, traveling population?

Jeanette - I think serving these people is the problem.

Trev - Screen them. If things [at the park] get cleaned up you (Pat) might get more volunteers.

John - Please be in touch with me. I've been gone the last four weeks. I'll be at the corner at 8:15.

David - How about if the park isn't clean nobody gets anything to eat?

Lidwien - At the service organizations in Old Town you bet they have rules.

Maureen - How can the CH affect what happens right outside?

[Trev and others get up to leave the meeting dissolves]

Meeting adjourned at 7:45pm