

Good Neighbor Agreement

by and between

Sunnyside Community House

and

Sunnyside Neighborhood
Association

Draft

5/7/2019

1. Introduction

- a. Our overarching goal being to improve the welfare of all neighborhood residents, we recognize and affirm state and city efforts to decriminalize homelessness and especially seek to avoid levying fines or other material penalties on persons without the means, standing or capacity to allay them. By extension, we seek to protect and further those organizations edified in their support, through direct marshalling of the resources with which our neighborhood is amply endowed. Preservation of the goodwill necessary to persevere in dedication to this pursuit requires the care and maintenance of our public trusts; from the space, land and structures of which our neighborhood is physically composed, to the safety, kindness, respect and generosity only through which any community may thrive, to the civic and personal responsibility imbued in each of us and upon which our ultimate authority as citizens depends. These goals, principles and agreements therefore seek to balance the needs, values, expectations and aspirations of the thousands of people that live, work and play in our neighborhood in the hope of encouraging direct and continuing action in service of its improvement.
- b. This agreement was developed under supervision of the SNA Safety and Livability Committee. The working group included representatives from the Sunnyside Community House and the Sunnyside Neighborhood Association Board as well as homeowners and renters living within a few blocks of the Community house. Throughout the process several public meetings were held at which the developing GNA was discussed and those present were asked to provide input directly, via written comments at such meetings, by email or via the SNA website. Drafts were also shared with and feedback requested directly from guests at the Community House during several meetings of its weekly peer support group, "We're All in this Together."
- c. This document is intended to provide a framework for communication and understanding between the parties, it is not a contract nor otherwise legally binding and enforcement of its provisions are strictly voluntary. In abdicating any appeal to a higher authority for adjudication or execution of its goals, we are left to judge the merits of this prescription purely on the efforts and efficacy of its implementers. Essential then, will be the continued organization of willing hands, hearts and minds in execution of the work described and in shaping the

revision and evolution of these labors and their aims that will doubtless be required.

2. Background

- a. Sunnyside Community House has been a cornerstone of service and neighborhood involvement since being built in 1911. Hard Times Supper, a dinner for our marginalized neighbors, has happened every Wednesday night since 1980. For most of its time, the SCH has been a Methodist Church. In 2015, the congregation disbanded, leaving the church in the ownership of the United Methodist Conference of Oregon and Idaho. Rather than selling the property to the highest bidder, a group of volunteers have run and maintained the center for the past 4 years, while holding space for what could be next, and expanding our services to unhoused and vulnerable neighbors. We have done this by renting many of the spaces to community arts and action groups that partner with our mission.
- b. In June 2018, John Mayer was hired as Executive Director of SCH with the goal of solidifying and formalizing operations to move beyond our 'holding space' way of working.
 - i. Mission: Sunnyside Community House aims to meet the most basic needs of our most in need neighbors. These needs include food, a safe space, and love; we meet these needs through meals, clothing and blanket exchanges, showers, support groups, medical care, mail services, an open door, and a depth of kindness from volunteers.
 - ii. Vision: We aim to provide radical hospitality to our unhoused neighbors and give our housed neighbors opportunities for service and fellowship with a group that is often marginalized. We aim to form community across the economic divide by providing excellent service to those in need. We do this with the kindness of volunteers, the backbone of Metanoia Peace Church, and the generosity of any and all donations.
- c. As of May 2019, we offer 4 afternoons of open hours for food, fellowship, and rest. We operate a Winter Weather Emergency shelter for housing overnight guests when the temperatures dropped below freezing. We offer showers, clothing exchange, blankets and other basic needs as well

as support groups, AA meetings, medical support, and other needed services. Upstairs there are numerous basketball leagues that rent our court, 4 theater companies, movement and dance classes, and community meetings happening every day.

- d. in July 2019, we expect to be joined by a newly appointed pastor, Sunia Gibbs, who will bring a congregation back into the building and take over the primary management of the rental spaces and revenue, while Sunnyside Community House grows its offerings of houseless supports in the basement with John Mayer and Pat Schwiebert leading the organization. Our plans are far from set but include possibilities for expanded job training, housing support, respite options, art and music opportunities and classes, etc

3. Core Principles

- a. Our neighborhood hosts a broad and varied array of people and activities, and this work is about making the community a better place for all of them.
- b. Human rights apply to all humans.
- c. Conditions in the neighborhood, especially on the street, sidewalks and public spaces, affect everyone in the neighborhood on a daily basis.
- d. Everyone has a right to personal safety.
- e. Everyone has a right to access services to meet their basic needs.
- f. Everyone has a right to peaceful enjoyment of their private property and public spaces.
- g. Everyone has a right to their opinion and deserves a voice in these conversations.

4. Goals

- a. Create a framework for problem solving at the neighborhood level before drawing on scarce shared (i.e. City, Police, County, etc) resources.
- b. Reduce criminal activity in our neighborhood, especially illegal drug use and dealing in public and publicly visible places.
- c. Ensure everyone's safety in and around Sunnyside Community House, Sunnyside Park and Sunnyside Environmental School.

- d. Promote a sense of civic participation, especially when it comes to the maintenance and use of public spaces.
 - e. Encourage long term participation in this agreement.
 - f. Reduce litter and biohazards on public and private property.
 - g. Increase access to mental health and other services, especially in response to acute need.
 - h. Reduce obstructions on streets and sidewalks.
 - i. Affirm the Parties' commitment to civil conduct, communication, and accountability to each other.
 - j. Create an open and productive dialogue between all parties.
5. All parties agree to:
- a. Participate in this agreement.
 - b. Report crime, dangerous activity and emergency conditions in the neighborhood to Portland Police by calling 911 immediately.
 - c. Directly resolve non-emergency problems through the following communications policy. All parties agree to:
 - i. Maintain up-to-date contact information, including telephone numbers, email addresses, hours of operations and response times. Such information will be posted publicly and conspicuously on the respective organizations' websites as well as the SNA website.
 - ii. Cultivate regular channels of communication, the most important of which being regular attendance at the SNA's Safety & Livability Committee Meetings, whether or not specific concerns are to be addressed.
 - iii. When concerns do arise, direct, in person communication will be the preferred method of discussion, with email and especially social media avoided whenever possible.
 - iv. In the case of acute conditions or concerns requiring immediate action, prioritize non-punitive responses through the following protocol, or such steps as may be defined by the parties.

1. If the disturbance is in the immediate vicinity of the Community House or you believe any persons involved may be known to Community House personnel please call 503-893-8895. At the time of this writing, this line is staffed by Community House personnel between the hours of 7am and 9pm, and you can expect a response within 24 hours. If you do not receive a response in a timely manner or conditions warrant further intervention you can contact the following resources.
 - a. For illegal camp sites including blocked sidewalks, public intoxication or conspicuous drug use, or excessive trash or biohazards contact City of Portland Illegal Campsite One Point of Contact at 503-823-4000 or <https://www.portlandoregon.gov/campsite>.
 - b. For noise violations anywhere in the neighborhood, including coming from Sunnyside School Park, contact City of Portland Office of Community & Civic Life Noise Control Program at 503-823-7350 or <https://www.portlandoregon.gov/civic/63242>.
 - c. For abandoned or disabled vehicles contact PBOT Parking Enforcement Hotline at 503-823-5195.
 - d. If you are worried about somebody's well-being but it is NOT an emergency, contact Multnomah County Mental Health Crisis Line at 503-988-4888 or Multnomah County Police & Fire Non-Emergency at 503-823-3333.
 - e. For overly aggressive or unsafe behavior in Sunnyside School Park contact Portland Park Rangers at 503-823-1637.
6. Sunnyside Neighborhood Association agrees to:
 - a. Provide clear, supported and well-publicized communication channels for neighbors with concerns regarding Sunnyside Community House's impact on the neighborhood.

- b. Reserve time at meetings of the Safety & Livability Committee for updates and discussion with Sunnyside Community House guests and personnel.
 - c. Engage in volunteer, capacity building and fundraising activities to support Sunnyside Community House, especially in its efforts to:
 - i. Provide increased access to mental health services
 - ii. Recruit and develop qualified personnel
 - iii. Improve church and surrounding property
 - iv. Maintain clean and clear adjacent public spaces including sidewalks, thoroughfares and Sunnyside School Park
 - d. Recognize that housing and mental health access problems extends far beyond our neighborhood, and to lobby for and work toward solutions at the city, county and state levels.
 - e. Work directly with Sunnyside Community House to develop and execute a list of small community-relations and safety-related projects through organizing, advocacy, and fundraising. For example:
 - i. Mural painting and art installation on the wall below the deck facing the Sunnyside School Park.
 - ii. A combined swap-shop and neighborhood cleanup day.
 - iii. Printing and distribution of fridge magnets or other materials bearing the above communications protocol and contact lists.
 - iv. Development and installation of a signage and lighting plan for the Community House exterior.
 - v. Siting and establishment of a new community garden for use by and at the Community House.
7. Sunnyside Community House agrees to:
- a. Provide education to guests regarding neighborhood impact, especially including concerns raised by neighbors through designated Neighborhood Association or other channels.
 - b. Provide quarterly updates to the Neighborhood Association regarding short-term operational plans (i.e. changes to hours or services offered) and long-term goals and potential solutions to neighborhood and other

concerns so neighbors can set expectations and organize appropriate support initiatives.

- c. Establish, promulgate, and enforce a clear code of conduct that extends to the grounds and public areas around Sunnyside Community House including adjacent sidewalks, streets and Sunnyside Park.
 - i. See Appendix A for a draft Code of Conduct.
- d. Encourage neighborhood engagement through periodic open houses or other publicized community events.
- e. Organize and encourage guests to participate in neighborhood sponsored community engagement and enrichment initiatives. For instance:
 - i. Belmont Street Fair musical performance
 - ii. “Sunnyside Day”, a potluck at the park
 - iii. Sunnyside cleanup day
- f. Develop a list of small safety and community-relations projects in conjunction with the SNA that guests and neighbors can contribute to through fundraising and volunteering.

Appendix A - Sunnyside Community House Code of Conduct

Outside rules

If you break these you will be excluded:

- No drug use or drinking on property
- No drug dealing
- No stealing from us or each other

Help us be good neighbors:

- Clean up after yourself and others
- Use the garbage cans and dumpsters, do not leave trash in the streets
- No carts left behind
- No gear left behind
- No sleeping on the property
- Move your cars and vans... you can't live on 35th
- No loitering--if we aren't open, don't hang around

Inside Rules

If you break these you will be excluded:

- No stealing from each other or us
- No abusive language
- No fighting
- No drugs or drinking

Help us:

- Staff only in the kitchen and pantry and laundry
- Staff assist in clothing closets
- Be kind to volunteers
- Offer help when you can, ask for help when you need it
- 5 minutes in bathroom
- Dishes stay inside
- Clean up after yourself

Appendix B - Contact Information for City, County and other shared resources

Multnomah County Mental Health Crisis Line
503-988-4888

Portland Park Rangers
503-823-1637

Observation Report for Sunnyside School Park
<https://www.parkscanpdx.org/send-observation?parkId=715>

Multnomah County Police & Fire Non-Emergency
503-823-3333

City of Portland Office of Community & Civic Life Noise Control Program
503-823-7350
<https://www.portlandoregon.gov/civic/63242>

PBOT Parking Enforcement Hotline
503-823-5195

City of Portland Illegal Campsite One Point of Contact
503-823-4000
<https://www.portlandoregon.gov/campsite>

PDX Reporter desktop and mobile app
<http://pdxreporter.org>