

SNACC NOTES FEB. 17, 2022

Present: Jes, Emily, Hannah, Cole, Vincent, Sergio TK, Darryl Michaud, Holly Pershall
Notes taken by Hannah & (after 7:30) Jes

6:30-8PM

Jes: suggests we give background on our committee since we have some new people here tonight.

Emily: Mostly we do work with our houseless neighbors. We do trash pick-up, we run a shower hygiene program out of a church in the neighborhood.

Jes: this committee is under the umbrella of the Sunnyside Neighborhood Association. This committee is houseless neighbors. And livability issues.

We do intros and give our go-to Karaoke song. ;-)

Emily puts a slide on about **Community Agreements:** We would like to adopt our own community agreements both as a board and on the SNACC committee.

<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1AnCBjKRhaR2NYA-jniXevkTIR-ZdMLFn/edit#slide=id.p1>

Jes: there's a poster of agreed community norms on the wall at Beacon Village. I really like "look for the good and assume the best." Also: "Check your own temperature before calling out hot heads." Reinforcing the idea of being collaborative and not necessarily going to reactionary responses.

We do an activity on a "jam board"

Emily puts forward 2 questions:

1. What do you need to fully participate? (Could be breaks during long meetings, closed captioning, more engaging activities, more time to reflect before or during the meeting, etc.) People post post-it note suggestions:

- more time to prepare and reflect before making decisions
- meeting in person
- I love it when communities ask for participation from all who are in attendance.
- Doing work together we talk a lot but sometimes it feels like we don't make decisions. So more time with each topic, fewer topics.
- shorter meetings. 1.5 to 2 hour meetings feels daunting and I dread them.
- willingness to be openminded even if it deals with difficult topics

What are some examples of community agreements that you'd like us to adopt?

Look for the good & assume the best

Be kind

Be curious.

Check your Own Temperature before Calling out Hotheads

Embrace different opinions. Think of them as alternative ideas to try. Learn by doing instead of just words.

Embrace uncomfortable conversations

“Yes and” style

We discuss what came up for us.

- Hannah mentions that the having shorter meetings comment resonates. Maybe we'd have more people come to meetings if we had shorter one.
- Emily and Jes thinks we can certainly have a happy medium. [Fewer topics, more on each topic.]
- Vincent likes the one that says, “doing the work together we talk a lot but...” —I didn't write it, but I agree with it. I have trouble making decisions without action.

We talk about responses to next slide:

- Hannah says that the “yes and” attitude, I think, was already on the board when I first starting coming to meetings. It was exemplified by Matt and Jes both—especially when we had neighbors come to meetings who were upset about the camp. “Yes, we all agree it would be better to find everyone houses, but in the meantime we think everyone deserves access to hygiene, clothing, food, etc.”
- Vincent: not everyone needs to think alike. What I think is really interesting when people start doing things together. Probably every one is wrong a little bit right a little bit. When you start do do things—the laws of physics and nature tend to send us back to the right track.

Shower & Outreach Programs

Cole mentioned at the SNA board meeting: potentially delivering newsletters to our houseless neighbors.

-Han says why don't we keep them at the showers, so that we can get people to read them while waiting for shower. And people can take some around on their “walkabouts.”

-Emily hasn't had a chance to do the walk yet; josh's schedule is so different from hers

-Jes has done a walk. But not with her partner yet.

- Vincent says there are 3 folks who live in his neighborhood in cars, and it's not obvious they are there. He wonders if this is unique. When we do the outreach—are we missing people?

- Jes says when she was walking around she had the stickers and she was using them as a way to start a conversation with the folks. Which is based on making an internal

judgment, which is a little weird. (i.e who is houseless and who is not.) For vehicles, maybe we can tuck some under the windshield? As a way to not have to interrupt someone's life.

- Cole thinks that giving people newsletters may not be what they need. We need so much else. What if we just focus on one person and then like, do some things for that one person. If it doesn't work, maybe you move onto the next person. I don't know. I think it seems like a more targeted approach.

- I say I think it'll be best to do further engagement with folks once they come to the showers. Not just on the street. Feels like the folks who we get to know at the church trust us more, may actually seek out our help. (Whereas people on the street may see us as another housed person.)

-Cole reminds us that it takes houseless folks a longer time to do simple things like getting mail and accessing services. "So our lives our busy. We don't always have time to come to the showers."

- Jes do we have a plan for how to get people with a wheelchair or a cane into the ramp area?

Cole: On that front, we need a sign to direct people more. Seven didn't know where to go...

Jes: could we use the funds we have to make an A-frame sign? Yes.

Vincent: has wooden sign boards that he's found on his litter removals!

Jes: can make a poster to fit on the A-frame board. woo-hoo!

We will put it out on the sidewalk on shower days so people can see clearly where to go.

Hannah: guesstimates that we're spending around \$125 a month, all told including laundry cards, nitrile gloves, cleaning supplies, razors, etc. [Note: right now we have a lot of shampoo, conditioner, and body wash so we haven't had to buy that for a long time. We also have plenty of sponges and the church is supplying cleaning spray.]

Vincent: Reminder that the \$\$ spreadsheet is always updated in the SNACC folder. There's a couple sheets about the SNACC committee.

Conversations we've had this week

- Hannah and Emily met with Abigail from TPI to talk about how to help connect social workers with houseless folks who may want vouchers for affordable housing. Emily is interning at Home Forward, which is how we got connected with Abigail. She's part of the Coordinated Access team, who is reviewing eligibility for these vouchers.

-Cole says there's somebody missing. Laura. She was in an RV for a little bit. She was kind of going out with this guy Robbie. Robbie was a wild card... [Laura is the mother of the 3 kids.] If anyone sees her, let Cole and Mo at Defense Fund Portland know.

– Hannah gives background on Nonviolent Peaceforce, which is an NGO that works in war-torn countries to try to get both sides to put down their weapons and talk. They have opened a U.S. office over the past few years and just got a grant from the Jubitz Foundation to assess whether their programming would be helpful in the Rose City, specifically the tensions around houselessness. We spoke with them on Zoom, they also spoke to Cole on Zoom and we also showed them around the shower project at the church and Cole took them on a walk over to Laurelhurst to meet a few of our houseless neighbors. They were also able to meet with people from Sisters of the Road, Hygiene4All, and even folks like T.J. at Laurelhurst NA. Their week in Portland flew by but Yomi will return in late March and hopes to meet with more housed neighbors.

They are still assessing if they are able to offer anything in the community here, Emily notes.

Litter Clean up Discussion

How do we want to talk about our trash program?

We don't want to use the word clean-up. Let's use 'pick-up' instead.

We have a clean-up coordinator at SNA, historically long-term role.

More recently, we have a smaller program at 36th and Hawthorne (pilot) engaging with campers to support bagging and trash removal. This is in addition to Adopt one Block.

Vincent prefers that we describe what we are doing as litter clean-up. Except when speaking with houseless neighbors, then don't use "clean-up" or "sweep." General consensus is that this is appropriate.

Hawthorne Business Association has started a monthly litter pick-up along the entire corridor: 12th to 52nd. Started in collaboration with our work. They are engaging with the RID patrol. Occurs on a Saturday, RID came and picked up bags on Monday. A report was made in advance of the bags being deposited. New approach, seems to work. Belmont Business District is also thinking of doing something similar. At a practical level, this is the first collaboration and is hopeful.

Added Sergio to the mailing list: srgvilla92@gmail.com
holister1974@gmail.com

Can we update the name/address of the mailing list.

Meeting adjourned.