

Hilltop Action Coalition
Area-Wide Meeting – July 17, 2017

Notes/Minutes

Brendan Nelson called the meeting to order at 6:06 pm.

Board members present: Brendan Nelson, Teresa Jackson, William Towey, Jo Davies, Jennifer Schaal, Fletcher Jenkins (emeritus)

Elizabeth Pauli (City of Tacoma City Manager): Emergency Temporary Aid & Shelter for Homelessness

- The City declared an emergency in order to give tools to the team assigned to work the homelessness issue, to be able to procure supplies and be able to put immediate measures into place
- (Handout) There is one site still in the “Mitigation Phase” where people’s needs are being assessed and they are being cared for with basic supplies
- The “Stabilization Phase” is the situation at the camp at 1423 Puyallup Ave, which includes showers, laundry units, fencing and storage
- The City Council has approved budget for two Mitigation sites and one Stabilization site, but they want to take a slow approach to creating any more sites so they can see if the funding is being effective
- The City passed two ordinances regarding vehicles and camping, which are supporting this effort, and are considering another ordinance on sitting/sleeping on sidewalks
- The Stabilization site has capacity for about 90 people and is generally full
- If people want to refer homeless folks to needed services, please record this data in the 311 application the City is using to track and help those who need immediate help
- All citizens who need help are being served, regardless if they are long-term Tacomans or new arrivals; however, the City is NOT seeing an influx of new arrivals
- The City is putting out notifications as they clean up existing camp sites
- It is yet to be determined when/if the people in the Stabilization Phase will be able to find permanent housing before the City emergency funding runs out

Mark Merrill (Shared Housing Services): Youth Homelessness on the Hilltop

- Shared Housing Services has many programs: one is for home sharing for adults
- Another provides families with counseling and tools to overcome barriers to finding a home
- The Youth Homelessness Program is modeled after the adult home sharing program, but additionally provides a monthly stipend of about \$550
- The Youth Homelessness Program is geared to providing youth with a home and mentorship while they seek to finish their education or find employment
- There is a housing stability plan, weekly follow-ups, screening for an appropriate match between youth and home providers/mentors. training on conflict resolution and coping with youth moving off the street and into a home

- Through Wayward Home Washington, Shared Housing Services is participating in the “100 Day Challenge” to get 166 kids off the street; Shared Housing has achieved 98 so far

Brendan Nelson: Hilltop Engagement Committee (HEC)

- The next meeting is July 19th (moved due to the July 4th holiday); normally meets the first Wednesday of the month at Bates Technical College
- Eric Alozie: Wants to get on the HAC Community Meeting agenda next month or September; the link light rail project team has opened an office in the old Key Bank Bldg (1120 S 11th), Tuesdays noon-4:00pm, Wednesdays 9:00am-1:00pm and Thursdays 4:00-8:00pm
- The project team wants community input on the streetscape design (streetscape is storefront to curb) and wants to hear other questions and feedback
- William Towey: There is an article about HEC in the new issue of the Hilltop Journal; this is the time, and these are the opportunities, to have a voice in how the link light rail impacts the Hilltop community...a better solution than leaving or complaining about gentrification

Brendan Nelson: Community Announcements

- Jo Davies: See the new Hilltop Action Journal issue for lots of good information about the Hilltop Street Fair coming August 26th; to volunteer, see Anne Artman at Recovery Café; to be a vendor, see Jo
- Brendan: National Night Out is coming Tuesday, August 1st; please register with Jennifer Stolle if you are having an event HAC can support
- Greg Walker: The Hilltop Neighborhood Clean-Up Day last Saturday was a great effort!!! 160 households participated, a 50% increase from last year, and 219 loads were taken in; another clean-up will occur at Jason Lee Middle School in a couple of weeks—watch the HAC calendar/web site/ Facebook page for specifics
- Jennifer Stolle: The next Luna community walk to clean up litter is Sunday July 23rd; these occur on the second and fourth Sundays of each month, 2:00-4:00pm; meet at the HAC Office (1116 Earnest S Brazill St)
- William Towey: We are still figuring out how to distribute the Journals, getting lost of ideas; Jo Davies has a great idea to use youth groups like Boys & Girls Clubs to take on distribution as a project; please give Journals to your neighbors!
- Next HAC Community Meeting is Monday, August 21st

Brendan adjourned the meeting at 7:15 pm.

Submitted by Jennifer Schaal, July 17, 2017.