

**Cully Association of Neighbors
General Meeting DRAFT Minutes
January 14, 2020 7-9pm 6025 NE Prescott St.**

Board members in attendance: Josh Heumann, Mac McKinlay, Annette Pronk, David Sweet, Claire Alyea, Gregory Sotir, Rich Gunderson, Stephanie Neely **Absent:** Isha Leinow

Meeting comes to order at 7:05 pm with introductions from Josh Heumann, Chair

→ **Vote: Julie Granger motions to accept treasurer's report**, Annette Pronk seconds. All in favor, none opposed, none abstained. Agenda approved.

Activity: Table discussion on personal scarcity.

Panel on Houselessness:

- *Terrence Moses (TM)*, Founder of Neighbors Helping Neighbors; *Scott Layman (SL)*, Dignity Village Visitor Intake Committee Chair; *Lisa Larson (LL)*, Dignity Village Leadership Council Vice Chair; *Jonny Lewis (JL)*, City of Portland, Homelessness and Urban Camping Impact Reduction Team (One Point of Contact Campsite Reporting)
- **Why Does the Problem Appear to be Unsolvable?** - **TM:** Our country does not focus on keeping America healthy, dollars don't go to the right allocations that they could, money filtered to the top, we need affordable housing. **LL:** People don't know their neighbors, people used to take care of each other in smaller groups. **JL:** Failed social policy, unaffordable rent, needs case workers **SL:** Drug and alcohol programs are 2-3 months when they take 1 year to get off
- **7 Tips for Meeting People Where They Are Explanation** - **TM:** Approach others non-confrontationally, make myself known before approaching and why you are there, have eye-level conversations. If you feel uncomfortable approaching someone don't force it because your attitude can be seen as confrontational, which could be dangerous. Check-in on others, anyone could experience houselessness.
- **Some say the general public is losing empathy - what needs to happen both to the unsheltered and to the general public to help them?** **SL:** 5,000 homeless people in Portland, shelters don't work, can't just give people things, need to do more. **JL:** Clean Start responds to campsites, sign up for OHP, meet basic needs, community needs to strategize, shelters are changing, allowing pets or spouses. **LL:** Dignity Village (~20 years) is one of Portland's safest neighborhoods per capita, take care of own problems, medical conditions arise from being on the streets, many agencies work with individuals to get them into housing, homeless helping homeless works and would like to see homeless villages in every neighborhood **TM:** More villages where we can give health care (addiction, mental health, medical) as transition projects for semi-long-term and neighborhoods have to buy into it (city has to come to them where the city ask them properly) **LL:** Drug/alcohol use can happen outside of the village, but because many are in recovery, substances are not allowed in Dignity Village. If someone is kicked out of the village for drug use, they hit rock bottom and typically self-improvement happens. **JL:** Office of Homeless Services log into a service where information about people is shared among many providers. **TM:** Adjust houseless folks back into neighborhood life with support from others.
- **What do you want people who have never experienced homelessness about being homeless?** **SL:** We're regular people, there's hope after being homeless. **LL:** Saying hi to someone might save their life. **JL:** Homeless people don't have the luxury to have the stability to prepare themselves. **SL:** Housing gives people the reason to want to go get a job. **TM:** We are all the

same. Having real conversations with people living outside can open your mind. SL: Every morning you have to pack up, basic tasks take all of your time

- **Why do we have so much homelessness in this city?** SL: Single bedroom apartment is \$1200-\$1400 a month. Impossible to live on minimum wage.
- **Dignity village has been really successful, the City should develop more villages. Residents could mentor new villages. Has the city thought of this? Why can't it work again?** LL: Village Coalition to start Dignity Village involved the city. Helped mentor women's village in Kenton. We want to see more villages, see others empowered as I have been. JL: City is taking an affordable housing first approach. PSU's HRAC (Homelessness Research and Action Collaborative). Safe/lawful places for people, open zoning code to allow alternative shelters in each neighborhood. Villages modeled after DV: Opportunity Village (Eugene) and Seattle Sharewheel; visitors come from around the country to learn.
- **When talking to our unsheltered neighbors, is there a service resource for us to reference?** LL: Street Roots has a guide updated every 6 months, given by the boxful, available at Gregory Heights Library.
- **How many of the houseless people need case management?** SL: Every one. TM: All need services. Low-income housing doesn't end up being low-income housing. Villages/tiny homes are a great place to start. LL: We pay for everything else ourselves, we just need land.
- **Has the city considered addressing the Oregon Congressional Delegation that there is a growing disparity between income and affordability?** LL: Every elected official should have to live outside for 30 days.
- **What keeps you hopeful?** LL: Seeing the guy who comes into the village, homeless for 22 years, making huge progress and becoming part of society, living in housing for 5 years. TM: Knowing that I have a part in this problem by checking in, reaching out to leaders that we need serious change. SL: Has to happen here, won't happen in Washington. JL: Working with optimistic unsheltered people, seeing communities care about this problem.

Meeting Minutes corrections: Chris Browne wants to add "on RIP before we make decisions as a community" to the delta plus section.

→ **Vote: David Sweet motions to approve November's minutes as amended,** Mac McKinlay seconds. All in favor, none opposed, none abstained. Minutes approved.

Treasurer Report: \$1,763.18 Income, \$6,130.91, Expense from July 2019, \$22,076.61 Balance

→ **Vote: Gregory Sotir motions to accept treasurer's report,** Chris Browne seconds. All in favor, none opposed, none abstained. Treasurer's report approved.

CAN Chair (Josh Heumann): Marilee, Mac, Denny, submitted a grant to CNN to get money to work on the cleanup this year. Dignity Village does tours.

Library (May): This Saturday 2-4: Lunar New Year Event, baby lion dancers, food, calligraphy, crafts

NET (Annette Pronk): Operations Plan, meeting on Thursday Jan 23 at Columbia Ecovillage, anyone can become a NET member.

CAAT (Gregory Sotir): Owens Brockway: DEQ will renew their Title 5 permit. CAAT/Portland Clean Air have petitioned EPA with Earth Justice to review the permit because they aren't exercising the law appropriately. NW Metals: As a result of a senate bill last year 3-year suspension of their business license on Dec 24. Issued fine. Business on hold. DEQ issued technical restraining order to clean up property, cease shredding tires, reimburse state for investigatory cost, NW Metals is appealing. HydroPortland (Aluminum manufacturer) DEQ \$1M fine in the Dalles. They have a Cully property in Cornfoot, assumed responsibility for the previous pollution. DEQ wants to have them pay 500k to absolve them of pollution.

T/LU Update (David Sweet): Meeting Tuesday Jan 21, Cully Grove Common House 4779 NE Going w/ Trimet about operations center at 46th & Columbia. Rose @ Hacienda, beginning work on Las Adelitas.

Tree Team (Bruce Nelson): Rigler Arboretum stories needed; Sunday May 17th Arboretum Walk-through

Newsletter: Albertson's box was destroyed, getting a new one. Spring issue deadline is tomorrow. Urgent need for an ad manager.

Delta/Plus (Ability to give feedback has been requested by community members)

Delta (Changes): Consider mix of pro and con for every topic we cover, less time on board reports more time for content, less rigidity in the way the meeting proceeds (more congenial), less opinions, instructions every week on how to use the microphone, have a greeter, ask if this is your first meeting

Plus (Likes): table discussion, Josh moderation of audience, heard from community organizers not just city employees, appreciate the panel organization, some very well-thought, focused questions, invitation to learn more about Dignity Village, cohesiveness of the community here, learn new things each meeting, panelists Terrence and Dignity Village members are accomplished, powerful, ending early

Action Item: Based on repeat comments, when we develop our next panel we can reach out directly to Chris Browne.

- **Julie Granger moves to adjourn the meeting**, Doug Pruitt seconds. All in favor, none opposed, none abstained. Meeting adjourned at 8:51pm. Minutes submitted by Claire Alyea, CAN Secretary.