Safe & Healthy Communities Meeting

Table Meeting Notes

July 27, 2016

*Notes about the notes*

* Mostly raw notes
* Spelling corrected when noticed
* Organized into topics where it was obvious by the note-taker

# Table ?

## PH/Safety Concerns

* Homelessness
* Property crime
* Most have an addiction
* 254 RVs North Precinct
* Increase in property crime
* Parking RV, Petty crime
* Queen Anne now high crime
* Construction activity, not enough parking
* Competing with van, because RV or van parked

## Actions to Increase PH/Safety

* LEAD Program – West, Belltown – not North
* SPD = Crisis Ap
* Safe Consumption Sites
* Fund mental health
* Why do we have 2-5 AM parking signs, they help no one
* Make services available to all area

# Table 13

## PH/Safety Concerns

* Tent camping
* Littering
* Drug use (\*3)
* Mental health / behavioral / unpredictable (\*2)
* Confrontations/screaming/disorderly conduct
* Missing trees
* Large amount of people at night
* People in crisis/narcotics
* Co-existence with unpredictable people
* Nextdoor media
* Squatters
* Theft
* Livability/density – built environment can improve or not improve
  + More shared public space
  + Increase transient living (small apartments lead to short-term tenants)

\*\*Without a sentence of being part of the solution, frustrations and anger can increase

## Actions to Increase PH/Safety

* More funding for social services
  + Wealthy community
* People who “don’t want help” or refuse services are the problematic section of the population
* Safe consumption sites – people likely not happy with, but is better for community
  + Public health crisis in nation -> problem not going away over night so they need a safe environment to use
* Limited options for where to go
  + Shelters *can* be an unsafe option
  + Clean, sustainable, safe housing available
* 24 hours shelter project
  + Don’t kick out at daylight
  + Lockers
  + Pets/partners allowed
* Local homeless don’t panhandle as much
* Local homeless have a sense of place
* “All carrot, no stick” approach won’t work universally
  + Some people need the help despite the fact that they might not want it
  + Outpatient clinics low success
* You can build apartment buildings w/out parking
  + If you rent an apartment w/out parking, you can’t have a car
* Outreach
  + Disconnect w/departments
  + When libraries were being built, communities were asked what they need *before*
  + \*Connected approach w/city, county, state departments with communities and *follow-through*
  + \*why doesn’t the library or other public buildings have a few stories of housing?
  + \*Make the best use of city property to include low income housing
  + \*Leverage its existing property to facilitate more housing elsewhere
* More green space/positive public space
  + Every block neighborhood garden
  + Pocket parks needed
  + Rooftop green space
  + Playground in downtown Ballard
* “Must be rules to the game”
  + If you refuse services, then you must follow the rules
* More funding into social services
  + More qualified people
  + \*treat mental illness as a public health issue and not *criminal* issue
* “Pack behavior” increases trends in misconduct
  + \*Empower leaders w/in communities to tap into pack behavior
* \*Bringing LEAD into Seattle
  + Diversion program – a way to remove participation of judicial actions if other actions are appropriate
    - But only applicable to people who have already committed a crime
  + Crisis response team
* Enable citizens to take some appropriate actions
  + Train for discernment
  + People feel connected to their own neighborhood
  + \*Training for citizens for safe engagement
    - Asking for trouble w/being ill-equipped to handle
    - Vigilantism/accidental death or injury
* Build communication & relationship w/more stable/long-term residents within the homeless community
  + Over long-term, will shift the “me against you” to “us”
* City pick-up trash that gets dumped
* Increased law enforcement presence to reduce crimes

## Willing to take actions?

* Start conversations w/homeless people that you already know
* Be the squeaky wheel – engage elected officials – email/letter campaign to communicate issues
* Advocate for more safe injection sites
* Pick up trash on block
* Engage a homeless person
* Make an ongoing conversation about homelessness
* “Blockhead” – engage at block level
* Email list made available to participants?
  + Facilitate group effort
* Compile list of solutions and review in precinct
* Invite homeless to night out

# Table 2

## PH/Safety Concerns

* Break-in/property crimes
* Theft
* Drug dealing – may lead to life threatening/dangerous activities
* Human waste
* Ballard Commons Park
* Economic issues – joblessness – however, cannot conflate homelessness & drug addiction
* LEAD, funded by DSA, but drug dealing shifts to other parts of the city
* How does this integrate with housing demand

## Elevate conversation about how we conflate “safety” and “homelessness”

* Punitive responses to drug use – not right
* Public housing is demonized – not right
* Promote economic opportunity
* “housing first” cannot occur in isolation
* Coordinated care services
* How to respond to drug dealing? Segregating dealers and users
* \*Check out national research on how drug dealers work

## Actions to Increase PH/Safety

* More engagement of SPD with business owners, community members
* Coordinated services
* Culturally appropriate outreach
* Treatment on-demand – have services ready ASAP
* Continuum of housing services to meet different needs
* No barrier entrance to shelter
* Safe consumption sites
* Lobby state legislature for funding for mental health services
  + Spending on incarceration much higher than mental health services
* Promote faith-based models w/out the high barrier entrance of faith

# Table 4

## Density/Development

1. Impact fees – more for schools, fire and safety

There needs to be impact fees for larger business (Expedia, etc.), less for smaller businesses. City needs to keep an eye on this.

1. Neighborhood growth

What have we accomplished?

What can we share with next/other up and coming neighborhoods?

1. Master Development Plan

Growth

Transportation

Safety

Social Structure

Mental Health

Homelessness

## Fully fund Public Education

* State income tax??

## Homelessness

* No parking 2-5am = OK?!
* Tracking of encampments; minutes – let us know
* Beat cops! Who is homeless and why?
* Community policing
* Track everything
* Better H2O and electricity at Nickelsville
* Better coordination for Community advisory = transparency
* Better community communication
* SHARE = not able to help; St. Luke’s needs to have some else help
* More flexible with standards for housing
* Comprehensive updates, track data, transparency and communication with data to community; timely manner
* More data to us! Meetings, online, web, emails = community reports published by city
* Community neighborhood service center – police, district council onsite

## Addiction/Mental Health

* Bring LEAD to Ballard/District 6
* Spend $ on LEAD, not new police station
* Get federal government to help with drug addiction and homeless
* Need more addiction treatments, trucks
* SOS = confused, conflicting information, where? How are they supported?

## Communication

* Tracking! Of homeless/mental health
* Bring all these random areas together
* Coordinate community involvement
* Stop pushing the problem along
* “Do no hard” – people apply to all the community, not just homeless
* Socialist government, but not funded by government

## Safety Concerns

* If you commit a crime; whether homeless or not; you are arrested
* Follow-up with assault victims
* Problem with criminal justice system; not police; What happens with these criminal individuals
* Increased funding for human services
* 911 response = too slow!!
  + Staff more at call center
  + Staff more police! No one responds!
* Information/Follow-up with victims/neighborhood of violent crimes
* Lockers for people w/o homes

## Urban Disorder

Signs of discord

1. Shopping cars = do not have abandoned carts around
   1. National chains = wheel locks? Pick up missing carts? Neighborhood pick-up site?
   2. City works with businesses
2. Garbage
   1. Regular community clean-up
   2. Day labor = pay them (?? Club)
   3. Construction sites = accountable
3. Don’t enable
   1. City is not aligned on safety
   2. You cannot do whatever you want – follow rules

# Table 10

## PH/Safety Concerns

1. Drug use/Syringes
2. Filth/Dirt – litter
3. Cars broken into in “nice” area of Ballard
4. Feeling vulnerable – not safe
5. Being yelled at
6. Mental health issues
   1. WA is ranked 49th in mental health
7. Traffic – disregard for stop signs
8. Increase of apartment buildings – causing overcrowding of resources. Services and infrastructure. Parking issues. Are the buildings having to address this at all? Need transportation, officers, etc. increased
9. Rent increased (for example – for seniors who can’t afford). Density without a plan is a set-up for failure
10. The city lumps “homelessness” all together. If you say anything, you are told you’re not compassionate. We need to tolerate everything – that’s not okay.
11. Other communities have done better w/growth – fixed roads, etc. before allowing developers
12. Public health – those sleeping outside – exposed to physical health and crime issues. We need to be aware of when you fix one problem – it can make another issue worse (whack a mole).
13. Real estate is running the city and making no one happy.

## Actions to Increase PH/Safety

1. More police
2. Dems and republicans – polarized. Calling people NIMBYs doesn’t help (esp city leaders). Stop polarizing & pitting people against each other.
3. Safe injection sites – public health – decrease use, needles disposed safely. Link up services to help through drug use.
4. Don’t dismiss people with other points of view. Don’t say to someone you don’t care because you don’t agree.
5. 200% increase of apartments. The resources should match the increase of housing. There’s been an increase of crime.
6. Is an event like this helpful? Thought Mike O’Brien was going to provide the solutions that are going to happen. I’m in support of meetings like this, but thought we were moving on. Past meetings, members of community didn’t feel like they were being heard. Good policy requires us to listen and have input from citizens. Policy should proceed from there.
7. Triplex and duplex integrations (?)
   1. We need to have more integration and more inclusive of families in the same zones. Have socioeconomic groups integrated in schools. Telling developers that they could build affordable housing or pay a fee – they shot themselves in the foot.
   2. Solution – city council needs to charge development plans and zoning.
8. Mental health
   1. Don’t know enough about resources or funding from city and state. More services are needed for mental health for city, county, and state level.
9. LEAD – need more funding to have this in other neighborhood
10. Tent City – community didn’t get input on site. Foster more community input.
    1. This is the closest I’ve gotten to speaking to Mike O’Brien. I hope he reads this. Felt listened to by Bagshaw in a previous meeting.
    2. Issues with roll out of homeless encampment
    3. Data shows that moving people out of homelessness is working
    4. We need more and need to spread out homeless camps
    5. Data – isn’t published enough for community to see. LIHI has listing
    6. Treatment on demand. We should have resources for those who want the help. Not enough detox facilities.
    7. The citizens have to be willing to pay for more spots for detox, treatment.

## Willing to help take action on?

* The city listening – low cost
* More taxes, willing
  + More police
  + Safe injection
  + Homeless camp sites
  + Support Prop 1

# Table 5

## PH/Safety Concerns

* Needles/syringes in park
* Urban drug use
* 2 vans that don’t move – garbage
* Mattresses under Ballard Bridge
* A lot of people living outside, “off the grid”
* Concern of people moving into Ballard to park an RV or be homeless
* Unsanctioned encampment
* Feces, needles
* Disappearing open spaces -> pushing people experiencing homelessness into public view
* Assaults
* Impact of new employers/new jobs on availability of housing -> pushing people into available homes.
* People do not have a place to use
* Response times by SPD too long in Ballard
* Violation of rules in Ballard Commons Park
* Displacement from other communities – pushing people experiencing homelessness into Ballard
* Mental health crises – turnaround time is bad. Discharging people from mental health facilities into homelessness.

## Actions to Increase PH/Safety

* Official encampments
* Places to stay
* Community needle pick-up – volunteers to call when you see needles
* Safe consumption – through existing medical infrastructure (Swedish, UW Medical)
  + Will this just benefit responsible users?
  + Will not solve the neighborhood?
  + Where would it go?
    - Resources of the neighborhood
      * St. Luke’s breakfast program
      * Nyer Urness
      * URS [Urban rest stop]
      * Ballard Public library
      * Ballard Food Bank
      * The Bridge
  + Could it be like official encampments – there were fears that were unfounded
* LEAD in north end
* Housing first – get people into housing to help decrease use
  + How do we get the money?
* More environmental analysis of new projects
* Increase availability of police
* Garbage cans
* Needle collection containers
* Suboxone training for new physicians
  + Ask PH to do more trainings
* Activation of park area
  + Playground in Ballard Commons
* Alternative to RV lots – what do we do now that the RV lot is closing?
* Start encampments
* Build supportive housing with “Housing First” Model

# Table 1

## PH/Safety Concerns

* Open drug use – so common
* Garbage, litter dumping from encampments
* Lots of needles at park
* People at Starbucks/QFC doing drugs
* Not enough sharps containers
* Lack of public restrooms [lots of table agreed]
* Lack of hygiene
* Squatters in vacant Ballard homes that are for sale – doing drugs
* Elders need tax relief
* Move in fees are too much
  + Credit check, background check, deposit, first month’s rent
  + If no history, need to pay first and last too.

## Actions to Increase PH/Safety

* [A few people at table mentioned wanting LEAD and safe consumption sites]
* *“Houseless” better term than “homeless”*
* Airbnb for “houseless” people – putting up tents/RV parking
* More drop in centers, where houseless can hangout
  + At shelters, they usually have to be out by 6am. Where do they go?
* Wifi hotspots at library – mobile waitlist is currently 1000 people long
* Homeless camps
  + At Nickelsville, all are screened and only they can enter
* Safe consumption sites – would people actually use? Only if they are comfortable
  + How do we support it?
* Need to fund housing –

# Table 12

## PH/Safety Concerns

* How to manage those who don’t want services? (re: drugs?)
* How do we handle the hate (that goes both ways)? Misunderstanding about homelessness
* Loss of public access to needs
* Mentally ill individuals who are very hiostile. Encounter them over and over again. Unpredictability.
* Heroin epidemic
  + Using in the Ballard Commons Park
  + Too many needles

## Actions to Increase PH/Safety

* Figure things out locally. There are creative solutions that don’t take money
* Day shelter in Ballard. Right now, Library is an extension at 10 am.
* Permanent, stripped down bathrooms
* Increased education about the effects of drugs
* Health care
* Share success stories
  + Heroin/addiction task force suggestions coming out in September
* Need more feedback to the community (Transparency and feedback)
* Innovative – just start with the basics
* Provide social services – but who pays?
* Organize businesses and residents. Empower the community.
* Create mindset that people will be willing to help
* De-escalation training to others than police
* Small neighborhood meetings
  + Continue with communication. Empower people.
* Get business buy-in
* Why get rid of neighborhood council – why not fix it instead?

# Table 8

## PH/Safety Concerns

* Drug use
* Mental health
* Big changes over the past 6 years
* Concerns about safety of children
* Trash, especially needles
* Harassment/feeling threatened
* Sexual harassment
* Greenbelt: problem with the stop/greenway sign = no parking and made traffic worse

Actions to Increase PH/Safety

* Needles
  + More sharps containers
  + More exposure of issues so people know how to dispose
  + More awareness of needle sites
  + Would also be safer for drug users health-wise
* Homelessness
  + Changing perceptions of homeless
  + Everyone has a room – wet housing
  + Maintaining existing affordable
  + Building back SRO’s
  + Housing for people with partners/pets
  + More housing stock availability
  + No more sweeps
  + Enforcing affordable housing unit regulations
  + Set-aside unit legislation
  + Youth and family homelessness
* Garbage
  + Probably an easy solution?
* Drug problems
  + No beds in rehab = big barrier
* Law enforcement encounter
  + LEAD
  + Direct handoffs

*Services are cheaper than incarceration*

# Table ?

## Intro Notes

* Concern about smart meter situation
* Here to advocate for homeless, support the mission of this Church
* Rep. of Seattle Park’s Dep’t, deals with the homeless
* A couple, married, concerned about homelessness. Friend won’t bring children to nearby park anymore.
* Former board member of Real Change, complicated issues, photos of drug activity at Park; need to steer resources to those who can be helped; must also support police in enforcement [brought photo]

## PH/Safety Concerns

* Across from theater, angry man came over; afraid man would strike her; garbage she sees, piles; happened at this park also, middle of the day.
* Walk dad’s dog; gets me out more during the day, shocked to see amount of suspicious behavior visible; report young men hiding behavior in cars; tries to take photo of license plate; young man shouts, demands phone back; he tried to call on phone, was on 911, after 8 minutes on hold; heartbreaking to across people who are mentally ill even if not threatening others. Need to fund toward problem, increasing funding of police and mental health; laws re: getting a person who is mentally involuntarily committed make it too hard.
* The closing of mental health facilities we had, dumped patients. Dropped the ball; now stuck with problem that is almost intractable. Encampment on market has been pretty good; RV park is a problem, however – some things are working, others are not, defends no parking between 2-5am.
* (homeless advocate) Mental health system is broken; describes involuntary commitment process and resources for detaining and treating [?] mental health evaluation. Only 10% of people who police bring into a designation mental health professional get help; very hard for DMHP to detail, resources issue as well. Broken system, a capacity and resource issue.
* [Smart meter comments]
* A lot of what we’re talking about are intractable; not going to be solved; need to be kind; look at, smile, and acknowledge on street; waste of time to protest encampment, likes encampment. Until we get it solved, just be kind. He thinks crime level is actually low due to homeless, much of it is fear.
* Yankee Diner RV Park closed – what is going to happen to those people?
* City needs to increase police staff. Re: tent city, disagreement over was it/wasn’t big enough, city shoved down out through, no else, though despite promises from the mayor. $46 million spent on homeless, but amount $ kept by DHS is very high [?]; ask for much needed data from nonprofits; can spend our city’s resources better.
* (homeless advocate) When humanize people, takes away mystery, realize people with mental health issues are not inherently dangerous; organized self-encampments are pretty well self-regulated, SPD doesn’t have a lot of issues there; relatively low crime and supportive.
* (pastor) Share shelters have been closed since end of March, 250 put out. Have been struggling – would like to see what the plan is. 15 sites (indoor shelters) willing to back-up. Safer when they’re here at St. Luke’s. Run at a vastly lower per diem compared to other facilities. Ballard – calm neighborhood, almost no services, almost no outreach workers and mental health professionals. PD drugs people gets after midnight on Saturday! [can’t read], we are not going to turn them away. Need interdisciplinary lines in Ballard; a lot of people in neighborhood opposed to when rest stop because of mistaken belief that services attract problem.
* Swedish is consolidated mental health in Ballard, just 22 units
* (pastor) Swedish has no plans to pick-up patients when released. Solution – don’t release mental health patients at 1 AM. We feed 180 people here a day.
* How do we get committee [?] to hear us?

# Table ?

## PH/Safety Concerns

* Density – construction, parking
* Lack of transparency
* Crime – tag, robbery, break-ins
* Anti-social behavior, garbage on street, etc.
* Lack of community input
* Low communication between housed and non-housed
* Police responsiveness
* Parking rules – too little, too many, enforcement – unintended consequences.

## Actions to Increase PH/Safety

* Blog, block watch – Share info – good and bad
* City – infrastructure, streets, buses, sewers, B4 Building new building
* Bridge feed program, join, meet homeless
* City and people for all – empathy
* Transparency on incentives
* More tax incentives – low income housing in same neighborhood
* Stop loopholes for developers
* Access to portapotties
* Access to garbage collection (regulated and enforced)
* Notes beautiful things about neighborhood every day
* Separate needy and [?]
* Stop stereotyping
* More (smaller) neighborhood meetings/groups with connection to city government leaders
* Add to, input/don’t destroy existing groups, add diversity
* Add LEAD to North precinct
* Everyone know expectation for behavior for area, value the community
* Enforce laws fairly and equally
* Deal with problems fairly and equally
* Mental health services
* Let people know about package laws

# Table ?

## PH/Safety Issues

* Lack of public bathrooms
* Need secure bike racks
* Ineffective drug laws
* More welcome attitude
* Drug addiction – talent loss, family loss
* Car break-ins
* Unintended consequences of new policy
* Attribute crimes to homeless unfairly

## Actions to Increase PH/Safety

* Safe consumption sites
* Better street and alley lighting
* Better public bathrooms, in central core, with 24 hour access
* Safe and legal parking
* Day centers – socialize and humanize. Shower facilities, activities and trades
* Public business – keep bathrooms open
* Sharps disposals in bathrooms
* Portapotties (att. with store hours)
* Mobile bathroom services
* Incentivize new development and business to become part of the community (e.g., pat to use bathroom rule) (e.g., “defensive architecture”)
* Foster neighborly-ness
* Examine parking laws – street, alley, driveway; nighttime parking
* Backyard camping, small structures
* More storage options
* Bike donation of confiscation by police
* Mother-in-law options, expand to RVs
* Organize foreclosed homes; make available (Vacancy laws, like in Amsterdam)
* Comment on zone parking proposal
* Include people experiencing homeless in community meetings