



SEATTLE HOUSING AUTHORITY
CITIZEN REVIEW COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES

MEETING NO.: 16

LOCATION: Yesler Community Center, 917 E Yesler Way

DATE: January 13, 2016, 5:30 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.

ATTENDEES: Committee Members

- Angela O'Brien
Art Rea
William Ayears
Fadumo Isaq
Gay Boyce
George Staggers
Halima Jaarso
James Kelly, Chair
Jim Erickson
Julie West
Kent Koth
Lee Copeland
Maiko Winkler-Chin
Mark Okazaki

Approximately 22 members of the public in attendance; 53 total attendees (not including interpreters)

- Maureen Kostyack
Maza Gebriel Desta
Michael Lanthier
Mulu Amare
Mumina Osman
Nimo Farah
Matt King
Tam Nguyen
Ted Klainer
Pradeepta Upadhyay
Xinyu Wang
Yin Lau
Lee Copeland

SHA Staff

- Andrew Lofton
Anne Fiske Zuniga
April Griffith
Ashenafi Gossaye
Cindy Sribhibhadh
Fitsum Abraha
John Forsyth
Joy Bryngelson
Kathlyn Paananen
Stephanie Van Dyke
Tom Eanes
Davina O'Connor
Maria Ursua
Mark Hinshaw
Jen Song

- 1. 5:30 Call to Order
2. 5:30 - 5:55 Screening of 2015 Summer Youth Media Film
3. 5:55 - 6:10 Q & A with youth participants
4. 6:10 - 6:20 Break
5. 6:20 - 6:30 Introductions
6. 6:30 - 6:35 Review of Agenda - Andrew Lofton

Please note that the January 13, 2016 Citizen Review Committee meeting minutes are available in other languages upon request. To request a translation of the meeting minutes, please contact April Griffith at 206-615-3556.



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and present them during the public comment period at the end of the meeting. Interpreters and Joy Bryngelson, Seattle Housing Authority, and interpreters were available to read questions and comments as requested.

7. **6:35 – 6:45 Updates – Andrew Lofton.** A written overview of the redevelopment is attached. Andrew summarized the update and shared the following:
- The Redevelopment team successfully completed important construction projects providing new housing, pedestrian paths and streets for the community:
 - Kebero Court, 103 new affordable apartments located at 1105 East Fir St.
 - 67 families who previously lived in the original Yesler Terrace units returned. 57 moved directly from the original units without needing to relocate off-site.
 - 36 new households moved into Yesler Terrace, including two families who were on the waiting list more than three years.
 - Raven Terrace, 83 new affordable apartments located at 820 Yesler Way.
 - Families are moving in this month. Everyone is invited to the Grand Opening celebration on February 5th; flyers are available at the handout table for details.
 - 10th Ave S Hillclimb-connecting Little Saigon and Yesler Terrace will be finished this month. We welcome all to a grand opening celebration planned with the annual Lunar New Year Festival in the Chinatown-International District. That event will take place on Saturday, February 13th.
 - 45 adult Yesler students participated in the on-site Industrial Sewing class taught by a Seattle Colleges' instructor. Two of the sewing students were hired by Filson and we anticipate more will be hired.
 - The Education Engagement Specialist at Yesler Terrace worked with several partners to develop the Basic Computer Class at Yesler. The class started as a result of the desire of the parents to be more informed about their children's academic progress and be able to access the online Seattle Public Schools student progress reports. 23 Yesler residents completed the class and received refurbished laptops from Earth Friendly.
 - There is interest from a private developer for a lot within Block 5. Block 5 is the SE corner of the neighborhood between Yesler Terrace Community Center and Boren Avenue. The due diligence process will start this quarter and if it proceeds as according to plan, Seattle Housing may issue an 18 month advance relocation notice this spring. Individual and group meetings with residents with interpreters available will continue as before to ensure that all residents have an understanding of the schedule and their options.
8. **6:45 – 7:00 2015 Health Assessment Results - Nuha Elkugia, Neighborcare Health**
- Through the Choice Neighborhoods Grant, Seattle Housing authority partnered with Neighborcare Health to provide health services to the Yesler community. This partnership includes an annual health survey of Yesler residents. Surveys were completed in 2012,

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2014, and 2015.

- The purpose is to assess the health and social needs of the Yesler residents and for the Community Health Workers to follow up on requests for assistance from the survey respondents. The presentation is attached.
- Surveys were sent in September 2015 to current and relocated residents to be completed by October 31st. Participants received a \$15 gift card. Community Health Workers were able to help those with Vietnamese, Somali, or Tigrigna language needs.
- Response rate: 63% of current households and 18% of relocated households responded.
- Collected survey responses covered primary languages spoken at home; participation in community activities; health; children's education; employment; and safety.
- Top five primary languages spoken at home included Vietnamese (44%), English (23%), Somali (10%), Oromo (6%), and Other (8%),
- When asked how they would describe their health, 46% responded Fair; 26% Good; 15% Poor; and 13% Excellent.
- Top five health conditions: High Blood Pressure, High Cholesterol, Arthritis, Diabetes, and Asthma.
- When asked how often they were bothered by feeling down, depressed or hopeless in the past two weeks, 73% responded Not At All; 20% Several Days; and 7% Every Day.
- Of all who responded, only 16 said they do not have a regular primary care provider (PCP).
- 97% now have health insurance; primarily from Medicaid (49%) and Medicare (39%).
- Employment status: 70% unemployed; 24% employed; and 6% self-employed.
- When asked if they think Yesler is a safe place to live; 67% responded Yes and 33% No.
- Further analysis will be completed in order to compare current vs. relocated residents' results and to include a more specific breakdowns of health issues by the various demographic information.
- Sex, age, and ethnic group will also be analyzed to determine if the results are representative and is reflective of the Yesler community as a whole.
- A full written report of the survey results is currently in process and will be completed and submitted to SHA this quarter.

9. **7:00 – 7:15 Yesler Neighborhood Park - Natalie Ross, Site Workshop**

The design concept has been changed and improved upon from the original concept in 2014 (The presentation is attached):

- The design ensures the park has design equity and reflects all communities. Several components that the community suggested during design meetings were carefully considered and incorporated.
- There is a main North-South axis through the park site and intersects with the neighborhood paths.
- On the upper plaza, just west of the Community Center, is an integrated civic space with

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multiple uses. It includes a water feature, a playground, open plaza, and seating. .

- The park includes a great lawn that can be used for open play or public events and has an amphitheater design, and two other areas that could serve in the same way.
- An area designated for soccer and basketball are provided.
- Artistic elements have been combined into all aspects of the designs. On one of the external walls outside the Yesler Community Center, there is an opportunity for a community art mural.
- There will be one unisex, public restroom available on the outside of the Community Center. It will also be ADA accessible.
- The park walkways and paths, as well as the play areas, are also ADA accessible.
- There will be both grass and synthetic turf in the park; synthetic turf on the elevated mounds, soccer and play areas.
- A CRC member commented that the ADA accessibility should be emphasized as it was a great feature and makes the park more inclusive.
- A CRC member asked about how the neighborhood park design will affect the available parking; will residents be losing parking? No, the park design ends at the curb. The community center parking is staying, and there will be parking available on Washington Street.
- When asked when the park will be finished, Natalie Ross explained it should be completed around end of 2017/beginning of 2018.

10. **7:15 – 7:25** Questions/Comments from the Public

Andrew Lofton invited questions and comments from the public regarding Yesler Terrace redevelopment or the presentations:

- The night time construction noise has been going on for six months now and it's unacceptable. It's on weeknights, the middle of the night and on weekend nights, too.
- Have residents been asked for their opinions before designs were made for the new buildings and after they are built? Stephanie Van Dyke, SHA, replied that the newest building, Kebero Court, is still too new to have feedback for the next one being constructed. However, residents who have lived several years at Lake City Court, a similar building to the new ones at Yesler, were polled and their feedback and input were used in making designs. Seattle Housing also conducted several resident meetings to present apartment designs and ask for feedback during the design of each of the new buildings. Unit designs for Seattle Housing's fourth new building are on display boards tonight and staff are available to answer questions or receive comments.
- Were residents asked what apartment layouts they prefer for bathrooms, kitchens and living rooms? Yes. Community meetings were held and residents provided feedback on the layouts they preferred. About 50% preferred the kitchens and living rooms toward the front and more open, and 50% preferred them in the back and separated. These preferences were used in designing the building, and 50% of the apartments are



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with kitchens and living rooms in the front, and 50% with them in the back.

- The stoves don't work well; we can't even boil water. Are these going to be fixed? The new stoves installed are designed with safety features, and do take a little longer to heat up. This is a new safety element installed across all Seattle Housing's new apartments in response to kitchen fires. The new stoves do work, and if you have questions on how to use them or would like someone to check yours, please let property management know.

11. 7:25

Adjournment

Meeting closing; Andrew Lofton adjourned the meeting.