



SEATTLE HOUSING AUTHORITY
CITIZEN REVIEW COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES

MEETING NO.: 13

LOCATION: Yesler Community Center, 917 East Yesler Way

DATE: Wednesday, May 14th, 2014 5:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

ATTENDEES: Committee Members

- Abdisamad Jama
- Angela O'Brien
- Art Rea
- William Ayers on behalf of Barbara Nabors-Glass
- Fadumo Isaq
- George Staggers
- Germaine Covington
- Halima Jaarso
- James Kelly, Chair
- Jesseca Brand
- Jill Fleming
- Jim Erickson
- John Fox
- Julie West
- Kent Koth
- Maiko Winkler-Chin
- Mark Okazaki

- Maureen Kostyack
- Maza Gebriel Desta
- Michael Lanthier
- Mulu Amare
- Mumina Osman
- Ngu Vu
- Osama Quotah
- Sara Nikolic
- Sue Sherbrooke
- Tam Nguyen
- Ted Klainer
- Tom Im
- Vanessa Murdoch on behalf of Jeanne Krikawa
- Xinyu Wang
- Yin Lau

SHA Staff

- Andrew Lofton
- Anne Fiske Zuniga
- Cindy Sribhibhadh
- Fitsum Abraha
- Jody Engle
- John Forsyth
- Joy Bryngelson
- Kathlyn Paananen
- Michelle Ackermann
- Rod Brandon
- Ron Jenkins
- Shelly Yapp
- Stephanie Van Dyke
- Sven Koehler
- Tom Eanes

*Approximately 25 members of the public in attendance

I. 5:55 Call to Order

Chair Kelly called meeting to order.

II. 6:00 Comments from the public

Chair Kelly requested comment from public; no comments were made.

III. 6:05 Approval of August 14, 2013 minutes

Minutes were approved as submitted.

IV. 6:05-6:10 Construction Project Updates

- Tom Eanes reported that there is a significant amount of construction occurring on Boren. The project at 1105 East Fir is going well, with an estimated completion of April 2015.
- The Baldwin Apartments are nearing completion (July) and should be occupied in August of this year.
- The buildings next to the Steam Plant are planned for demolition in June 2014 for the construction of 820 Yesler Way Apartments. 51 replacement units are planned for this area.
- The old community building will also be demolished in August 2014. The pavers in the exterior courtyard of this building will be salvaged for potential reuse in the neighborhood.
- SHA is hiring a contractor to replace the major sewer lines, build the new street network, construct the 10th Ave S Hillclimb, and prepare the land for

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the new neighborhood park. This work will take place in the southwest sector of the neighborhood.

V. 6:10-6:20 **CRC Sub-Committee Report-Outs**

Housing Subcommittee (*Report-out provided by Michael Lanthier*)

- Michael Lanthier reported on the income distribution of the new housing being built at 820 Yesler Way. In total, there are 83 units. Fifty (50) are replacements housing units. Thirty-three (33) units are for households earning up to 60% of median income.
- The building will include 70 one-bedroom units, 10 two-bedroom units, 2 three-bedroom units and 1 four-bedroom unit.
- At 221 10th Ave S, there will be a 104-unit building (south of the Yesler Community Center). This building will start construction in 2015.
- SHA is currently in negotiations with Vulcan Real Estate for the purchase of the three parcels north of Yesler Way and between the 820 Yesler Way site and Boren Avenue.

Neighborhood Subcommittee (*Report-out provided by Ted Klainer*)

- The Epstein Opportunity Center will have two community rooms available. Additionally, 820 Yesler Way will have a large community room.
- SHA applied for a JPMorgan Chase Foundation grant to support the study of affordable retail and support for small resident-owned businesses in the neighborhood. JPMorgan Chase awarded \$60,000 to the development of this study.
- SHA is seeking funding for a Master Arts Planning process.
- At the 10th Ave S Hillclimb, about 20 two-foot diameter mosaic medallions will be inset into the walls of each landing and at the terminuses of each accessible ramp. The artist gathered community input from over a dozen meetings to develop the design concept for the medallions.
- There are plans for a diagonal pedestrian pathway between 9th Ave and the Hillclimb.

People Subcommittee (*Report-out provided by Angela O'Brien*)

- Sven Koehler reported that Phase II relocation is almost complete.
- There are 139 units planned for demolition this year. This area included 135 occupied households. Almost all of the households have leased a new apartment.
- As of Jan. 14, fifty-five (55) households relocated to a vacant unit within Yesler Terrace. Everyone whose first preference was to move on-site at Yesler Terrace was able to do so. To date, 74 households moved off-site. 30 residents were issued a Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher. Most people from Phase 2 stayed at Yesler Terrace or moved within a few miles from Yesler Terrace.
- Ron Jenkins reported that on May 14, SHA and several partners sponsored a job fair. Harborview Medical Center, Seattle Central Community College, Seattle University, and Swedish Medical Center. Over 70 residents from Yesler Terrace and Rainier Vista participated.
- Prior to the job fair, eight (8) residents that applied for jobs with the partners have been hired, many of them in environmental services at Harborview and Swedish.
- Since September 2013, the SHA Economic Opportunities Team placed 15 Yesler Terrace residents into jobs, with an average wage of \$12.33 an hour.

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- Angela O'Brien made the observation that some residents have been waiting a long time for a tutoring program.

VI. 6:20-6:30 Relocation Update

- Sven Koehler reported that Phase III started. Residents received an 18 month notice before having to move by July 15, 2015.
- The community most popular with Yesler Terrace residents relocating from Phase 3 so far is Rainier Vista.
- In both phase 2 and 3 combined, fifty-eight (58) vouchers were issued to tenants. So far, most residents decided to rent in the Seattle area from SHA properties. Eleven (11) tenants rented private housing in Seattle. 5 rented outside of Seattle, and two tenants moved out of state.

A resident by the name of Tadele Kabele attested to the fact that SHA has succeeded in the relocation project from his perspective. He stated that Sven is making the process easy for residents. His experience was very satisfactory and Sven was able to address all his concerns. His family is thriving in their new location at Rainier Vista.

VII. 6:30-6:35 Neighborhood Park Planning Update

- Frank Robinson, landscape architect, reported on the Neighborhood Park.
- There has been one public meeting and two additional upcoming public meetings.
- On June 26, the preferred plan will be presented.
- The preference is to have a unified concept.
- He is currently working with the Seattle Design Commission and looks forward to more input from the community.
- The park is scheduled to start construction in 2015.

6:35-6:45

BREAK

VIII. 6:45 – 6:55 Economic Opportunities Update

- Ron Jenkins reported that the Economic Opportunity Coordinators (EOC) have moved into a new office at the Epstein Opportunity Center (formerly Yesler Steam Plant).
- SHA has partnered with TRAC Associates. They met with a sewing class of 30 women from the East African community. They are developing a sewing job training program at North Seattle Community College. They will be working with a sports apparel company to create job opportunities for the women.
- Today, the first annual Pathways to Career event was held in conjunction with SHA partners. There were 73 residents in attendance. They held workshops on how to apply for jobs online, one-on-one coaching with HR managers, etc. Residents applied on the spot for job opportunities. People were interviewed at the event.
- The EOC group will track the 73 residents who attended the event to follow up with them. The emphasis is not only on obtaining jobs, but in career opportunities and job retention.

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- IX. 6:55-7:00 **Summer Education Programming**
- Maria Ursua reported on the summer education programming taking place for the various age groups.
 - She has been working with Seattle University and the Education Collaborative to coordinate programming during the summer.
 - Maria distributed information with the various programs focused on elementary, middle, and high school students.
- X. 7:00-7:10 **Neighborcare Health Update**
- Katie Bell, COO at Neighborcare Health, provided an update. There are 191 individuals enrolled in 29 different programs.
 - Through the City of Seattle Families and Education Levy, Neighborcare Health operates a school-based health centers at Bailey Gatzert Elementary School. Out of 394 students, 220 have registered at the clinic.
 - Of the 200 students registered, 81 have been seen for medical and mental health care.
 - References are received from teachers, parents, and administrative staff.
 - On May 29, there will be a campaign at the school on eating healthy, good quality food to feel healthier.
 - Katie discovered today that a second grant was received for a community health worker. Rather than hiring 2 employees, they will be able to hire 4. The grant will pay for another year of enrollment eligibility. The intention is to hire residents living in Yesler Terrace for these positions.
 - Angela O'Brien asked what community health workers would need to do in these positions.
 - Katie responded that it would be a requirement that they live in Yesler Terrace. They would be given a job description, and they would represent different locations within the community. Applicants will be provided with training and educational opportunities.
- XI. 7:10-7:20 **Yesler Art Update**
- Anne Fiske Zuniga from SHA reported on the Yesler Arts project. SHA is pursuing two grants to fund art work at Yesler Terrace.
 - The first grant is for \$370,000 for planning for all artwork in the Yesler Terrace community.
 - The results of the planning will help to determine what kinds of art programs will be created.
 - Of that grant, \$250,000 will go toward paying artists for the work.
 - There would be community involvement in what art will be created and where it will be located.
 - The second grant is for \$1,000,000. Of that amount, \$600,000 would be applied to art around the community.
 - SHA and Seattle University are partnering in writing the grant applications.
 - If successful, the funds would be received this fall.
- XII. 7:20-7:30 **Comments from the Public**
- One of the residents expressed appreciation for everything that the Seattle Housing Authority is doing for them. There are job opportunities provided for residents.
 - Andrew Lofton responded that we are partnering with a number of agencies who have agreed to hire Yesler Terrace residents. They have committed to interview and hire people who are qualified for positions in their companies.

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They will keep coming back to Yesler Terrace to look for residents for their openings.

- A member of the public asked for a summary of how many units are occupied and how many are vacant, as well as how many extremely low income units have been replaced. She would also like to have the summer program documents translated (the outreach materials). She will be provided the information she has requested after the meeting.
- One resident was speaking on behalf of his father and asked if being proficient in English is a requirement for most jobs. Andrew responded that it is generally a requirement for people to be proficient in English for most jobs. SHA will provide resources to assist with English as a second language for residents.

XIII. 7:35 Adjourn