

Concordia Neighborhood Association



General Meeting
 March 3, 2021 at 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm
 Held via GoogleMeets

AGENDA

BOARD MEMBERS AND ATTENDEES

Chair – Peter Keller	At Large 1 – Robert Bowles	East 2 – Joseph Fraley
Vice Chair and SW 1 – Garlynn Woodsong	Secretary and At Large 2 – John Fitzgerald	NW 1 – Ike Harris
Treasurer and East 1 – Heather Pashley	At Large 3 – John McSherry	At Large 6 – Brittany Taylor
NW 2 – Amelie Marian	At Large 5 – Truls Neal	SW 2 – Matt Bowles
At Large 4 – Sonia Fornoni (absent)	Bernadette Janet	Linda Clark
David Saffren	Kathleen Donnelly	Nicki Dardinger
Michelle Fitzgerald	Josh Guttmacher	Paul Van der Salm
Tina Davilla	Jonathan Lewis (speaker)	Samantha Waltz
Barbara May	Diane Charlton	Ike Harris

Recording Secretary: Mary Maeve Barrett

7:00 p.m. Welcome & introductions

7:05 p.m. Review & approval of consent agenda

1. Chair opened and welcomed the speaker, Jonathan Lewis (he/him), Program Coordinator, City of Portland, Office of Management and Finance, Homelessness and Urban Camping Impact Reduction Program.

Lewis shared his presentation regarding the reporting system initiative: One Point of Contact. This provides one single location to submit a report regarding camping/garbage without concern about property ownership. While there are three methods of submitting, each method activates the same process so only needs to submit one report. This report activates a crew with lived experience to engage with the residents and conduct a review. They can assess and assist in these issues to find solutions rather than confrontation. These crews have continued this work through the pandemic. It is asked that reports be submitted once a week to continue to review and assist (per site). This response is NOT based on the amount of reports received for a particular site. Reporting will not equal removal. Once a report is submitted, the Clean Start Program (a homeless-to-work program through Central City Concern) is dispatched to assess. This will result in evaluation for next steps in finding sustainable and meaningful help. After, this assessment could result in a 48 hours written notice of removal or assistance for removing garbage and providing resources. Posting can give 48hrs-10days notice for residents to access services and prepare to evacuate depending on circumstances. This Impact Reduction Program is currently receiving 700-1100 reports per week. Clean Start does approximately 300 assessments per week and is averaging 65k lbs of garbage collected.

Lewis stressed that This Impact Reduction Program is not designed to solve homelessness. More information about groups who have more long term and upstream solutions can be found on the website. The website also provides a map in their toolkit of emergency hygiene locations throughout the city. These are portable toilets with varying hand washing services and these are serviced six days a week. Outdoor Emergency shelters have been increased (referred to as C3PO) in reaction to Covid but there is no plan to remove them at this time.

Lewis asked for questions and comments.

Ike Harris asked how repeated reports are handled when residents continue to create issues even after assisted cleanup. Lewis explained the process focuses on meeting people where they are at. The employees are people trained to work with these community members rather than against them. Brittany Taylor asked about the relationship between the Impact group and PPB. Lewis identified that the Neighborhood Response team is more directly connected to the PPB. Peter Keller asked if abandoned car removal is included in the cited trash collection number. Lewis commented that the vehicle inspection team is doing as much as they can. And acknowledged that certain areas, such as NE 33rd, will require more extensive outreach.

Lewis also identified that during Covid, the health department has emphasized that dispersing camps creates other health issues. As vaccines become more available, the Impact Response can return to pre-pandemic levels of site removals where approx 11% of sites reported were removed.

Michelle Fitzgerald asked what the group needs in order to be more successful. Lewis said that community members need to keep reporting. This allows Central City Concern to continue to

make visits to assess and offer resources. It also gives current data to this group. These can be directed to reportpdx@portlandoregon.gov.

Bernadette Janet added a reminder that people are not homeless voluntarily and this has been a concern in America for a long time. She asked which percentages of sites visited ultimately resulted in removal. She also wanted to ask if the homeless groups produce more garbage or are simply without resources to dispose of garbage or human waste. She argued that hygiene access should have happened sooner and must remain after the pandemic.

Garlynn Woodsong added that the community is looking for guidance on how to shape our own community response. Lewis directed attendees to find some creative solutions through the website such as volunteering. He acknowledged the free fridge and pantry creations as examples of such creative solutions. Woodsong asked if ODOT land (such as we have in NE) would be open to partnering to create a shelter village. Lewis said there have indeed been shelters placed on ODOT land but some community advocacy would be needed. He reminded the group that these shelters then need to be managed and be transitional not permanent residences. So these are not a solution in themselves and will not be added to every corner.

Janet asked if dumpsters have been placed in the community to assist in disposal. Lewis said these typically have not been helpful as they become used by housed folks or to dispose of sharps.

Further contact can be jonathan.lewis@portlandoregon.gov

Meeting adjourned at 8:13