9/14 Meeting with Catholic Charities

Meeting start: ~4:30

In Attendance:

CC: Jennielynn Holmes, Sharon Vaughn, Matt Verscheure, Stephanie Merrida-Grant, John Pavik

Neighborhood: Betsy Hall, Gene Wright, Dan Wright, Sheila Bell, Becky Ankers, Susan Hayes, Jim Bergmann, Karen Schneider, Sher Ennis, Deborah Crippen, Paul Poling, Sally & Gwen (Miracle Plum owners), Jason *??* (7th St neighbor to East of temporary relocation site.)

Also: 2 Redwood Gospel Mission staff

Overview*: (Jennielynn & others)*

- No inside tour due to last minute work inside - services start tomorrow
- Jennielynn says she values engagement and dialogue
- Caritas Village to include 120 housing units on-site
- Expecting completion “mid next year” [specifically did not commit to a date]

Drop-in center (to be at Wilson temporarily): *(Jennielynn, Stephanie)*

- Goal: Get individuals attached to services
- Receive mail, IDs, restrooms, access to services, showers (currently a shower truck able to serve ~100/day)
- Staff covers domestic violence, substance abuse, rape counseling, access to short term housing and works toward permanent housing
- Clients can get lunch (prov by another org, Sonoma Food Runners)
- Some trusted long term service recipients help to help to staff the center
- CC works with Downtown Enforcement Team (DET; division of SRPD)
- CC also runs a Homeless Outreach Services Team (HOST)

Security (Matt)

- Ensure safety at facility, “Surrounding area”
- Security onsite 6-11:30 am, during their main traffic period
- 5-6 CC staff typically onsite 6am-5:30pm M-F (12-5:30pm Saturday - mail only)
- CC office hours 6-11am & 1-5:30pm (11am-1pm facility cleaning)
- Sonoma Food Runners serves food around 2:00 (no time change from previous practice, now clients have a space to eat onsite)
- Can only act on private space -- their grounds and immediate sidewalk
- Have mobile evening security to observe & report in immediate area
- Have installed security cameras onsite and will review any reported incidents and share with SRPD when appropriate

General Discussion:

- They have a “Good Neighbor” policy as part of their Program Agreement with their clients
    - **Jennielynn committed to providing a copy of the Program Agreement**
- Discussion ensued re. Enforcement of bans due to Good Neighbor policy violations. . .
    - *Summary*: They rarely & reluctantly ban individuals - their mission is to keep people *in* services. They stated ~12 have been banned/suspended in the past 12 months for neighborhood violations of Good Neighbor Policy

- **Restrooms**: *(Jim Bergmann asked about this)*
  - They do not provide a restroom after hours
  - They have no plans to provide a restroom after hours at Caritas Village
  - Unsure where the nearest after-hours restroom is -- Olive Park?
  - When asked if they would advocate for more restrooms: *no commitment*
  - Asked if they advise clients against hanging out overnight, or otherwise unwelcome behavior at parks:
    - Unsure what all they talk with clients about, but probably they talk about that (CC stated this is covered in Good Neighbor Policy)
- **Good Neighbor policy violations:**
  - Neighbors can report incidents to John Pavik (707) 284-3853
    If John is unavailable: (HOST) Hotline (707) 978-8329
  - There's a phone tree that John will share
  - Neighbors can send a pic of the person (so that CC can identify if person is one of their clients)
  - Does CC actively/regularly apply information from SRPD calls to assess violations of their Good Neighbor Policy?
    - Short answer: **No** *Longer answer:* various hemming & hawing by CC staff ensued, but clearly no evidence of a regular feedback loop (Stephanie stated she speaks the SRPD DET daily)
    - Paul challenged CC to improve that feedback loop, as a positive service to the neighborhood: Stephanie said she would look into it
- **Trash**:
  - "Conservation Crew":
    - Clients organized to do neighborhood cleanup
    - Neighbor reports re. trash can help focus their efforts
  - Jason challenged them on somehow reducing the amount of food & food container trash that clients leave with and then strew about neighborhood
    - No commitment from CC to address this.
    - CC stated they have no power to require clients to eat on premises, but have created a space for clients to eat onsite and will encourage their clients' good behavior on this issue
- **Upcoming additional services:**
  - inRESPONSE team (based on Portland's CAHOOTS program (Crisis Assistance Helping Out On The Streets)
    - Scheduled to start in November
    - Would cover after-hours (evening through night), for which there is currently nothing but SRPD
    - Roving service composed of SRFD, mental health, substance abuse, others
- **Suggestion from Neighborhood**
  - Deb brought forward suggestions from Elizabeth Wright re planters on the sidewalks to cheer up the space. CC was receptive.

Meeting ended ~5:30 (though most neighbors left by ~5:10)