

Task Force

Bellingham City Council guest

Commerce meeting, need to end this meeting early

Changes Updates

Fencing not just Chuck's lot but with NWYS, sounds and bright lights. Need to communicate that with the neighbors and city. Hope is to have them at the end of this month.

Website is still in works to get up and running, the email list invite should be going out to sign up for updates, for video recordings and weekly updates of building projects

NWYS and OC

NWYS and OC still discussing the best use of youth in building, adjusting criteria for folks to get in, like background checks. Screening process helps identify needs, like financial, mobility or behavioral that helps us identify which housing options are the best for those needs. Do not have the capacity to serve those we once were.

Mixed population of young and old adults with high needs.

Case Management services ending at 22 North, but making sure the individuals are still supported and cared for. Long term 5-10 units at 22 North, not a housing organization, focuses on healing journey of young people, so focusing more on clinical side of things at 22 North to focus on passions, tap into their creative outlets through radical interventions, such as healing circles and art expression. Takes time and resources and community to fund services like this.

Because this is a small community the ability to end homelessness for youth is real.

Not wanting to shoo anyone, just wanting home to feel safe.

How do you engage the youth? Mentoring?

That is a weak area and trying to build up volunteer base and go into engagement site to provide expertise in mentorship.

Youth in Focus: Program that taps into young people's passion, like disposal cameras and going around downtown and taking photos then publishing them to the city, intentional and organized program to feel connected to our community and motivate the feeling to want to participate in the community.

Street Outreach, ride along (NWYS) ...also HOT team? To be able to get the full stories of how and why people became houseless and why they congregate, not just selling drugs, but safety for womxn and community identifications (BIPOC)

Get the full understanding of the cycle and culture

Some youth is on the street, still getting services from NWYS, like family reunification if they identify that is something they want and the family dynamic was appropriate. Previously had a robust foster care partnership, but no longer, but still try to get them connected to foster if they want something like that.

The divorce of OC and NWYS will be most likely the end of October, it takes time to figure out the

continuity of care for the youth and funding.

Clinical services as opposed to housing services.

Have to get a young adult shelter back! How do we create homes for youth? How to elevate them out of poverty?

Reducing number of young adults does not mean that they cannot stay there. Reserved units for young adults. Will always serve 18 year and older, just looking at the needs of the individuals to place them in appropriate housing.

Still need to advocate for younger houseless care, due to the trend that it tends to turn to elder individuals.

NWYS still looking at fencing and Chuckanut builders is helping navigate funding. Don't want to put up fencing, but wanting to keep the community safe to help the situation. Hesitation to put up lights, because of funding and will that keep the community safe? OC will help with funding as well.

(City) If there are still dark spots if OC installs lighting and NWYS does not, people will move to that part of the property.

(NWYS) Putting up lighting and music doesn't feel like the most humane way.

(City) People are seeking services like the Ground Floor (that funders pay for) so we need to recognize what services are on this block, like PSH and The Pad for minors, there a concentration of people who hang out there that are not seeking out these services to, so how do we make sure the property is being and focused for those services.

NWYS even if they don't agree but willing to work with shared goal, just might have a different approach, belief that there is a better way to do the work and will always advocate for that.

VA

Josh will be spending 2 hours 2x a mo onsite and participating with weekly services meeting so there can be better communication between OC and VA

General Public Feedback

Wild weekend in community (Sunday) Smoke coming off of Chuckanut builders roof, small explosion off side of roof. Called 9-1-1 to make sure everything was safe. 1.5 hours waiting and watched a young kid run by with a hand gun, did not get response from emergency services, but seemed like no fire so did not call back, but got video to send. Blue Jeep Liberty 2 accidents in a week, BPD responded, no injuries but DUI. Video will be sent to BPD and OC (owner of Red Light took video)

Chuckanut Builders in as a guest/sit in on meeting?

City Updates

Shelter Protection Zone: expectation that business owners enforce it, not true. Service providers are responsible to enforce the shelter protection zone. Need the buy in from both agencies, for the proposal

to the mayor of an investment in RSU for more frequency in PSH areas. These issues float and change, but we can get more presences of RSU at 22 N to support both agencies and have a shelter protection zone. Just make sure the system is in place before it is launched. The mission also does not like to do anything that is inhumane, but rather make sure those using the services are safe. Giving people a place to live and go to the pad safely.

RSU contract will be city general fund. Expanded services, expect to see increase around the 22 N area because it is more intense at 22 N than Base Camp.

RSU do 5 rounds a shift of walking around the block at 22 N.