

Sand Point Housing Advisory Committee

Meeting Notes

Wednesday, August 6th, 6pm-7:30pm

✓ Program Overview and New Services Opportunities

- **Family Housing – Joshua Welch, Program Manager**
Sand Point Family Housing consists of 26 units of transitional housing for formerly homeless families with children under 18. Referrals for open units come from shelters, transitional housing programs and other service providers. Residents are able to stay up to 2 year, but the average time of stay is 14-16 months.

Applicants must be currently homeless and have an income that is at or below 30% of the median income guidelines. Applicants go through a background check to confirm that they have no recent felonies or evictions on their record.

During their stay, residents work with case managers to access supportive services intended to set families up for success as they move towards permanent housing. Most residents are signing up for waitlists for Section 8 or other subsidized housing.

There is a wide array of services available to Family Housing residents. Case management is required for all residents. Some of the voluntary service options include a respite child care and play groups for parents and their children, bike programs with Cascade Bicycle Club, and cooking and nutrition programs run by Operation Frontline.

Monthly community meetings are held which all residents are required to attend.

A new opportunity for residents has come up through a partnership with the YWCA, providing 20 hours of one-on-one employment counseling on- and off-site.

✓ Phase II Development Update

- **Timeline/Design Updates**

Designs have not changed too much since this group last saw them. The first stage of construction will be 52 units for families, built on Site B, which is just south of Santos Place. The 52 units will be 2, 3 and 4 bedroom units with a mix of townhomes and flats. The Development team has been meeting with the Historic Review panel to go over necessary changes/elements to the designs. That review process was just completed, so designs may slightly change in the next few weeks. The newest designs will also be included in the Housing Trust Fund application which will be submitted on September 8th. Early Design Guidance meetings with the Department of Planning and Development will begin around October. We have also been working on designs for the Community Space for Phase II. This space will be approximately 2000sqf and will include office space, kitchenette, bathrooms, storage and meeting room space for classes and programming opportunities.

- **Capital Campaign Progress**

Phase II requires a \$31M Capital Campaign. The first 52 units will cost approximately \$14M. We will apply to 3 major government funds for each stage of construction. The first application was submitted to the City of Seattle in April and in June they awarded Solid Ground \$4.75M towards the 52 units. The next major application will be submitted to the State Housing Trust Fund in September for \$2.5M. The third public funding source is Tax Credits and Solid Ground will apply for that in January 2009. The Capital Campaign Task Force, a group of Solid Ground board and staff and interested community members, has been working diligently on the need for private contributions, a critical component of the Capital Campaign. They have held events and tours on site to connect new donors to Solid Ground and increase the visibility of the program. So far, over \$900,000 of private donations have been committed to the project!

✓ **Upcoming Events**

On September 12th, we will host a volunteer group of Microsoft employees for the annual United Way Day of Caring. About 20 volunteers will be working on the landscaping at all 5 of the programs to help spruce up the look of the buildings and make Sand Point a more welcoming and inviting place to move to and live in.

On Saturday, August 16th, members of the community will join residents of Sand Point for a Family Picnic full of fun, food and games.

On October 10th, Solid Ground will hold the 8th Annual Luncheon with keynote speaker, Tavis Smiley. If you are interested in attending this event, please contact Kira Zylstra at 206-517-5499 or kiraz@solid-ground.org.

✓ **Community/Neighborhood Council Updates?**

The Advisory Committee is intended to help keep the community and local neighborhood up to date and involved in the development process at Sand Point as well as the current operations. Kira Zylstra, the Housing Liaison for Solid Ground, is thankful to the Advisory members for passing along the information gained at these meetings, but would also be happy to attend any neighborhood or community council meetings if that would be helpful. Since last attending these community meetings, no major developments have taken place. Please let Kira know if your neighbors have any questions or would like her to attend an upcoming meeting.

✓ **Next Meeting: Wednesday, October 1st, 2008 at 6pm**