CITY OF PHILADELPHIA
SHARED SPACES WORKGROUP
CODE OF CONDUCT SUBCOMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 4, 2017

Attendees
Brian Korn – Center City District
Carol Brooks—Commerce Department
Dave Holloman – Office of Homeless Services (OHS)
Dave Simonetti – Wawa
Dawn Summerville – Commerce Department
Don Haas — Building Owners & Managers Association
Fran Healy – Police Department
Julia Hinckley — Managing Director’s Office (MDO)
Krystle Okafor — MDO
Liz Hersh — OHS
Mark Squilla – City Council
Marsha Cohen – Homeless Advocacy Project
Mary Horstmann — MDO
Mary Scullion – Project HOME
Mike Dahl – Broad Street Ministry
Paul Beiderman – Avenue of the Arts
Sandy Vasko – Department of Behavioral Health and Intellectual disAbility Services
Sue Buck – Parks & Recreation Department
Tom Nestel – SEPTA

Meeting Materials
• Code of Conduct subcommittee membership list
• Goal planning template
• Shared spaces introductory presentation
• Overview of homeless services in Philadelphia:
  o Introductory presentation
  o Engagement centers summary
  o Philly Counts 2017 flyer

Introduction
• Don Haas welcomed the group and set the stage for the discussion, offering an overview of the Shared Spaces Workgroup in general and the Code of Conduct/Service Alternatives subcommittee.
  o Current members are welcome to recommend additional members to the subcommittee co-chairs; any selected members must act as a conduit for their respective fields of expertise. The committee will function as a representative body that is small and workable.
  o Any committee outputs will be disseminated via the workgroup’s Marketing and Public Education subcommittee.
  o The subcommittee’s efforts will not culminate in a formal report; instead we hope to agree upon a series of short and longer term action steps.
Don encouraged the group to think about whether there were certain approaches, like addressing the small minority of individuals who engaged in the most aggressive panhandling, that would yield perceptible change and could build support for larger efforts.
• Sitting in for Eva Gladstein who was absent due to illness, Liz Hersh highlighted the group’s charge: re-examining the rules of the road and the resources available in light of recent changes in Center City’s landscape that have put residents, visitors, business owners, and individuals experiencing homelessness in closer contact. The Code of Conduct subcommittee will tackle the issues that arise in our public spaces as an outgrowth of panhandling, homelessness, and
addiction, with a goal of preserving dignity for all in the spaces that we share. The group will aim to explore existing laws/rules and impacts, to develop action plans that can get the support/resources needed to improve the quality of life for all.

Discussion

- The group discussed the need to hone the focus of the committee; it was agreed that more data and context would be helpful for subcommittee members and also potentially for the public. Among the data points suggested were:
  - How does Philadelphia compare to other cities in terms of number of street homeless and panhandlers?
  - What are the numbers of individuals experiencing street homelessness and the number of panhandlers in Center City and in other areas of the city and how does this compare to historical numbers in Philadelphia?
  - What has been the impact of the opioid epidemic on street homelessness and panhandling?
  - What percentage of individuals who are homeless have a mental illness? What percentage are addicted to drugs or alcohol?
  - Are there best practices from other cities that the group should consider?

- Mary Scullion provided some national and historical context for the group, but it was also agreed that we will circulate additional data in advance of the next meeting:
  - Recent construction in Center City has displaced many, leading to new “hot spots” with large numbers of individuals who are homeless and the sense that street homelessness in Philadelphia is “getting worse.” For example, 75 people lived in LOVE Park prior to its closure and have now relocated to areas like the Convention Center.
  - Despite having the highest poverty rate of any major city (26%), Philadelphia has the lowest per capita number of people sleeping on the streets (~200).
  - Seattle has a 14% poverty rate, but over 3,000 of its residents sleep on the streets.
  - Philadelphia lost 23,000 units of low rent housing between 2000 and 2014.
  - Sister Mary urged the group to work to create real solutions, instead of simply “moving people around.”

- Liz Hersh provided an overview of the City’s simultaneous efforts to address many of the issues under discussion:
  - Shared Public Spaces Workgroup, with four subcommittees:
    - Code of Conduct, Service Alternatives
    - Chronic Street Homelessness
    - Food Access, Safety, and Dignity
    - Marketing and Public Education
  - Opioid Taskforce
  - Food Access Collaborative

- The group discussed that the problems cannot be addressed through arrests, which instead can then bar individuals from receiving needed benefits.
- The group discussed that financial resources will be key to support the service alternatives needed to create change.
- Tom Nestel briefly referenced SEPTA’s process for intervening with panhandlers under PA Code Rule 1002: panhandling is a summary violation that can be heard in court without the defendant being present. Now, SEPTA panhandlers rarely appear before a judge and are charged fines that they cannot pay.
- It was suggested that the group should try to determine the extent to which organized panhandling is an issue among Philadelphia panhandlers.
The group agreed to spend the next session beginning with a review of the data and landscape of the issues of street homelessness, panhandling and aggressive panhandling, and then to review the way the current rules are implemented, which will allow the group to better define the issues and prioritize some short and longer term solutions.

Next Steps
- Data on the current landscape will be distributed before the next meeting.
- Next meeting will focus on review of the data, review of current practices, and beginning to consider actions the group could support.
11:00 a.m. Welcome, Introductions and Purpose – Don Haas, Liz Hersh in Eva Gladstein’s absence

11:05 a.m. Logistics
- Membership – anyone missing?
- Meeting schedule for next six months; all meetings take place at Three Logan Square
  - Thursday, February 2, 9:00a – 10:00a
  - Thursday, March 2, 9:00a – 10:00a
  - Thursday, April 6, 9:00a – 10:00a
  - Thursday, May 4, 9:00a – 10:00a
  - Thursday, June 1, 9:00a – 10:00a
- Quarterly public reporting
- Communication Protocol through Marketing/Public Information Subcommittee

11:10 a.m. Overview of the current rules and practices related to:
- Sidewalk Behavior, Panhandling – Chief Inspector Dennis Wilson
- Parks - Sue Buck, Deputy Commissioner of Operations
- Outdoor Meals – Mary Horstmann, Chief of Staff, Health and Human Services
- Service Alternatives – Liz Hersh, Director, Homeless Services

11:40 a.m. Goal setting – Identifying what we want to accomplish

11:55 a.m. Actions to be taken before next meeting

Handouts:
- Code of Conduct Committee Membership
- Goal Planning Template
- Shared Public Spaces Introductory Presentation
- Overview of Homeless Services in Philadelphia
  - Introductory Presentation
  - Engagement Centers Summary
  - Philly Counts 2017 Flyer
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<td>(6-12 MONTHS)</td>
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Philadelphia is a city for all.

We all share public spaces – parks, plazas, sidewalks, streets, transit stations.

Lively shared spaces make the City fun and exciting. But they can also be crowded, dirty or even scary.

Now is the time to revisit how public space is used so we can all enjoy our public spaces safely, with dignity and respect.
MISSION - TO TAKE ACTION
1. To ensure safety, respect and dignity for all in the public areas we share - parks, transit stations, plazas, streets.
2. To constructively address panhandling, chronic street homelessness and food access.
3. To expand alternatives - housing, jobs and services - accompanied by a code of conduct.
Purpose
To establish clear standards for behavior in shared public spaces together with the tools and engagement to support it.

CO-CHAIRS: EVA GLADSTEIN, MDO & DON HAAS, BOMA
Members: Chamber of Commerce, Hotel Association, Free Library, DBHIDS, Police, Parks & Rec., CCD, WAWA, Parkway Council, Commerce, City Council, Temple U, other stakeholders.
SHARED PUBLIC SPACES WORKGROUP

CHRONIC STREET HOMELESSNESS

To strategize and implement real solutions to chronic street homelessness.

CO-CHAIRS: LIZ HERSH, OHS & JOHN MCNICHOL, CONVENTION CENTER
MEMBERS

Avenue of The Arts, Chronic Homelessness Partnership, City Council, Clergy, DBHIDS, Friends of Aviator Park, Friends of Rittenhouse Square, Metro Market, PHA, Other Stakeholders
To improve access to indoor meals and improve dignity and safety to meals when served outdoors.

CO-CHAIRS: MITCH LITTLE, CEO & JOE PYLE, SCATTERGOOD

Members:
Parkway Foundation, Broad Street Ministry, Center City District, Food Access Collaborative, City Council, Other Stakeholder Representatives
To develop and implement messaging, public information and communications for all around shared public spaces – business, residents and visitors.

CO-CHAIRS
BEVERLY HARPER, PORTFOLIO ASSOCIATES; ALICIA TAYLOR, HHS

MEMBERS
Center City District, Visit Philly, Hotel Association, Homeless Services, Avenue of The Arts, Other Stakeholder Groups
Leadership
• Public/Private Representatives
• Quarterly Report to Mayor

Membership
• Open to reps from organized business, civic, provider or hospitality association committed to regular participation

Action and Results
• Immediate action plans in place by 3/17

Transparency and Accountability
• Actions, proceedings, results and recommendations shared publicly
The Marketing and Public Education subcommittee will support each of the subcommittees’ work by:

• **Developing communications or educational materials** as recommended by the subcommittees, on an ongoing basis (not tied to report release timing)

• **Serving as the point of contact for press** and other inquiries about the subcommittees’ work
City of Philadelphia

Images:
1. People walking and sitting on a sidewalk with a person sleeping on the ground.
2. A large, ornate building with columns.
3. A person sitting on a bench near a fountain with children playing in the fountain.
4. A person sitting on a bench with snow covering the ground.

Logo: Office of Homeless Services

Tagline: Many Partners, One Goal, End Homelessness
MAKE HOMELESSNESS FOR THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA RARE, BRIEF & NON-RECURRING
HOW MANY HOMELESS?

POINT IN TIME COUNT

6,112 total

- Includes emergency and temporary housing
- 43% families – 0 on the street
- 705 unsheltered (3% increase from 2015)

Mental Illness
Substance Use Disorder
Domestic Violence
Youth
HOMELESS PEOPLE HOUSED IN FY16

6,000 Temporarily
  24,000 households came to our door

1,200 Long-Term

700 Prevented Homelessness
  5,900 requested help
PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING
  88% - 91% success rate for individuals
  97% success rate for families
RAPID RE-HOUSING
  85% success rate
VETERAN HOMELESSNESS = FUNCTIONAL ZERO
✓ DNC “Housed Not Hidden” gained national recognition

✓ Outreach “Hot-Spots in Prime Times” 18% increase in placements

✓ 100 Day Street Homelessness Challenge 108 placements from street

✓ 12% expansion in Youth Homeless Services FY17
In Center City, Parks and Neighborhoods

- Construction
- Growth
- Opiate epidemic
- Poverty
- Housing costs
- Budget cuts

88% of street homeless want housing.
WHAT CAN YOU DO?

CALL HOMELESS OUTREACH

215-232-1984
Engagement Centers
Office of Homeless Services and the Deputy Managing Director for Health & Human Services

Engagement Centers are intended to create spaces throughout Center City and West Philadelphia where vulnerable individuals can spend time in a safe and respectful environment as well as provide a tool for the police to address negative sidewalk behavior. The goals of the engagement centers are to:

- Provide a space that vulnerable individuals can go to during the day if they are looking for a place to spend time out of the elements. This compliments existing programs for similar activities in the evening.
- Connect individuals to critical services such as mental health supports
- Provide a space that the Police can bring people if individuals are in repeated violation of sidewalk behavior ordinances (such as aggressive panhandling or public urination) in lieu of sending them to jail

The Engagement Centers would ensure individuals have access to the tools they need to stabilize their lives while relieving some of the pressure on existing public spaces that are not equipped to support very vulnerable individuals.

The Engagement Centers would operate from 7 am to 7 pm, seven days a week, with very low barriers to entry (no ID required, for instance). It would also provide services such as:

- Meals
- Case management
- Showers
- Mental health supports referrals
- Housing supports
- ID services
- Mail

The Engagement Centers would operate at organizations with existing services for the homeless and hungry, leveraging their experience and current services. Funding will support investments in new staff to support expanded hours and services as well as ensure the maintenance of the space. We hope to launch one to two engagement centers in by March 2017.
Want to help with homelessness in Philadelphia?

We need volunteers on the night of January 26, 2017 from 2 AM to 7 AM to canvass the streets, parks, and transit stations to count the number of people living unsheltered in the City of Philadelphia.

For more information and to register, visit: bit.ly/phillycounts2017