

Caring for Community Meeting – 14 June 2018

A monthly meeting to organize the community to better respond to the needs of our fellow Berkeley community members who are houseless.

Notes

Agenda:

- Updates on urgent issues
- Small work groups & report backs: Basic Needs, Emergency Response & Community Outreach, Education and Communication

Urgent Issues:

- **Closure of 9th Street Shelter:** petition created by Consider the Homeless was distributed at the meeting along with a URL to support keeping the 9th Street Shelter open (update: \$400,000 set aside for year-round shelter)
- **Marina RVs:** Call for people to come out to June 26th City Council meeting to support the creation of an RV/camper park in Berkeley (update: item lost)
- **Pathways:** Concerns raised about the toxicology of the site as well as the forced removal of people from 2nd Street to establish Pathways and likelihood that many of the people living there are not good candidates (by self-selection) for Pathways. (update: current there are 12 occupants at Pathways)
- **Youth Spirit Artworks:** YSA has a campaign “100 homes for 100 homeless youth” that combines finding a location for a tiny home community for young people supported by an on-site case manager, finding homes for homeless young people in people’s home and in ADUs. We want to support this campaign and advocate for the City to find a location for the Tiny Home community.
- **Women’s Drop-In Center:** Working on a site for transitional housing for homeless women with and without children. This is a long-term project and will require support and outreach to neighbors to gain support.

Small Groups:

Community Outreach, Education and Communication

Public Education and Outreach Committee

- Building Empathy & Solidarity
- Outreach - D2D
- Media
- Events/Comm Discussions.

The group suggested the following:

- Messages should break down barriers between housed and unhoused people
- Publicize individual stories
- Publicize ongoing list of every day needs, toiletries, socks etc.

-Create system to provide mentors for unhoused individuals on issues they are interested in pursuing (job training)

-First they Came for the Homeless reports that they have had good success in conversation with people asking about issues and getting to know each other

-One member is part of a Meet Up on this issue with 106 people

-One member (Dan) is in a Indivisible group with 1,500 members

-Create images with one-line captions to humanize/normalize people who are experiencing houselessness

-Create Doodle schedule to schedule dates for direct action

-Group did not want to have a lot of meetings before deciding on a course of action but to integrate scheduled actions, meet at a specified intersection at a specified time to distribute flyers or to visit an encampment, or provide goods ...

Group will create email list of all participants so we can work together to set next meetings and actions and a website for this forum and on-going meetings.

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Emergency Response

We need a text loop to mobilizing people in case there is an eviction or raid or other emergency. This will be set-up as soon as possible.

Prepared to respond in case of 9th Street Shelter closure (update – no longer needed at the moment) and eviction of Marina RVs most immediately (update – threatened eviction for July 9th).

Basic Needs: Notes coming