

Good Neighbor Group Meeting #2

May 6, 2025 12 PM

Follow up Notes

<https://www.clackamas.us/recoverycenter>

Participants

Gary Cobb – Person in recovery, consultant
Kalina Kunert – Zoning consultant
Cindy Becker – Project manager
Cindy Saperstein – Resident and business owner
Martin Saperstein – Resident and business owner
Jennifer Pierce Zahniser – Son lives at WeBuilt
Melissa Melhus – Business owner
Sarah Schindlbeck – Person in recovery, director of 4D recovery
Miranda Warren – Admin for WeBuilt
Brian Gray – Business owner
Mike Sharyan – St. Kevork Armenian Apostolic Church
Jill Sherman – Project manager for Fora
Devarshi Bajpai – CEO of Fora Health
Dylan Blaylock – County staff
Kimberlee DeSantis – County staff

Update by Cindy Becker:

The subrecipient agreement with Fora Health has been approved, the pre-design will take 9-12 months and updates will be brought to the group. The zoning application has been submitted and will take about 4-6 months. The existing building will be demolished as it has asbestos and lead, and that has to go through the state historical preservation office. A fence will be going up around the building footprint as soon as possible. Neighbors are seeing more homeless people camping on the site and our facilities folks are addressing as they can. Will be communicating with the GNG as things progress.

Mike – does this group have access to the agreement with Fora and the building design?

Cindy – this contract is for the pre-construction work. As the design is created, information will be shared with this group.

Presentation by Devarshi Bajpai, CEO of Fora Health

Devarshi – also a person in long term recovery. His first job in recovery was with DePaul Treatment Center. Changed name to Fora health a few years ago. Their main site is near Mall 205 in Portland.

See powerpoint.

Mike – are all of the services going to be provided at the campus? Outpatient and inpatient?

Devarshi – yes.

Mike – how do you ensure there is no camping around the facility?

Devarshi – security over night and if someone tries to set up a camp during the day they are asked to move along.

Melissa – what is the radius for security?

Devarshi – immediate vicinity because of being in between Adventist and Mall 205.

Jennifer – how do patients arrive? Selection? Are people brought by police in the middle of the night?

Devarshi – it's not a police drop off. In the current facility, we have people show up at 7:30 am, they are admitted to services right away. Years ago, people were turned away but loitering was not allowed. Appointments are allowed as well.

Jennifer – do you follow up with people who are turned away?

Devarshi – haven't had to turn anyone away in the last year and a half. Always try to connect people with other services if so.

Martin – what age?

Devarshi – adults, rarely people under 20.

Mike – 7 days/week? Weekends different hours?

Devarshi – less activity on the weekends. At Cherry Blossom there might be 2-3 people showing up.

Mike – do you partner with any churches?

Devarshi – not yet but would like to consider that opportunity.

Mike – loitering – are people allowed to go out and have a cigarette?

Devarshi – our facilities are nonsmoking. We are a non-profit organization funded mostly by Medicaid.

Mike – federal cuts – could it effect long term funding?

Devarshi – it could. In the past the state has stepped in to ensure people continue to receive services.

Mike – what about reserves?

Devarshi – been around for 50 years, stable organization.

Mike – what kind of housing.

Devarshi – short term transitional housing – they stay there while we work with them on job skills and living skills to get to the point where they can be successful.

Mike – knows of a potential housing partnership, will share more later.

Jennifer – would like a general timeline –

Jill – just now kicked off the design process. Construction could start next spring, then depending on where we land on the phases, it would take around a year. Spring/summer of 2027.

Martin – will construction include road improvements around the facility?

Jill – there will be some road improvements required – will know that for sure when we get approval from the county.

Mike – the church building is considered a historical site. Requested having the timeline emailed.

Cindy – tour of Cherry Blossom site – when? Will send a survey. Would this group like someone from Law Enforcement or emergency services to attend this meeting?

Melissa – would like LE to attend, or the security company that will be hired to provide the security on site.

Gary – excited about the project. These concerns are valid and has seen projects like this start up and has seen the participants organically help the area be welcoming.

Devarshi – has seen a good response on their other projects.

Jennifer – is there a plan for a neighborhood playground or something?

Jill – there will be about an acre of open space that is required for the project. The amenities are yet to be determined.

Cindy – will have a conversation with the GNG about what to do with the open space.

Brian – what are the next steps for this group after the tour?

Cindy – we will discuss how often this group meets, perhaps aligning the meetings around key milestones. During the preconstruction phase there may not need to be a meeting every month. Will send out a potential schedule.