

From: helenhyatt@charter.net
Sent: 4/20/2021 7:42:49 AM
To: esthermanheimer@avlouncil.com
Cc:
Subject: SFB Homeowners

Dear Ester,

I relayed your information as best I could to my neighbors, but they would still like a meeting with you. Would you be able to do one this week. I am sure your schedule is full, but if you could meet with them it would be very helpful.

They are still feeling very bruised from the experience, and are also nervous of the current policing plans, since we now have so few.

If you can give me a time, I will coordinate the location.

Thank you.

Helen Hyatt
14 Swindale Street

From: Reuben DeJernette <rdejernette@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 18, 2021 9:03 AM
To: 'Lou Popovitch' <loupop@hotmail.com>; 'Stewart Popovitch' <jessylinstewart@gmail.com>; 'Nancy Helm Estabrooks' <nancyhe2@gmail.com>; 'Deborah DeJernette' <dedejernette@yahoo.com>; 'paula baran' <paulabaran@gmail.com>; Michael Wasmer <wasmer.silver@gmail.com>; helenhyatt@charter.net
Subject: Re: Ester Conversation

I, for one, still want to meet. Took a walk up to Aston Park around 7am this morning...there were no campers or single persons sleeping on the grounds. There was lots of trash, most of it contained and presumably the city will pick up tomorrow. There was also a box each of clothes and shoes under one of the gazebo's. I spotted two crushed syringes that i threw away and remnants of two more.

I have two questions...

1. Now that the City sees there is a tenter / camper group in Asheville and with the looming expiration of the mortgage / rental...there will be a definite increase of people on the street...what is the City doing to prepare for this ?
2. The recent 1.6 million that had to be spent because time was running out....the City had at least three years to plan for this use of funds. Why did we wait until the last minute and send it to shore up the Deaverview Housing Complex ? This seems counter productive ...why enable an already dysfunctional complex ? Why couldn't that land have been purchased with the purpose of erecting a camp ground complete with overhead shelter/s, bathroom facilities and water with concrete sinks ?? This would be a permanent location for those passing through or long term visitors.

Let me know when and where, thanks reuben

On Saturday, April 17, 2021, 12:50:38 PM EDT, helenhyatt@charter.net <helenhyatt@charter.net> wrote:

Neighbors, I was able to speak with the Mayor and she asked me to rely this information, and if you still want a meeting she would do one.

I decided to write this down before I forget it all.

The campers were put into hotels. Rodderick Simmons Head of Parks and Rec was asked to remove the activists. They wanted to keep the police out of it so there wouldn't be push back. They are well aware of this group of people, they all come to every single Council meeting and clog up the public input sessions especially with the phone in. They are part of Kim Roneys group, she is the person behind most of this stuff, she has her own list serve and feeds them information.

All council is in agreement except Kim Roney. There should be no camping in city parks, especially in predominately AA and public housing neighborhoods.

City is working on many fronts, don't know if I can remember them. Helpmate, Homeward Bound, and she reeled off quite a few others. They are going to use the covid funds to build this low barrier shelter (so people can do drugs, get drunk, have dogs, smoke, have no id, and no questions asked, but free housing!).

There are 250 to 300 in real desperate need, the balance are hard core and don't want help, or traveler type. They are still thinking of ways to get them to move on, but the more people feed them the less likely they are to move.

There is no support for the travelers, but no plans either, other than to get the non-existent police force to ask them to move.

Council is receiving multiple photos, emails etc from many different neighborhoods, especially the camp behind Walmart, demanding city do something. They are getting inundated with emails from PRO camping people and ANTI camping people. They got 300 emails after they broke the camp up at Lexington, emails were all critical and they should stop harassing homeless.

The VA is involved as well.

I can't remember any more, too much information.

Bottom line – if you still want to have a meeting with her please tell me.

IF the campers are gone (I haven't checked) she asked that we write to thank Council and City leadership to show our support and appreciation, as they will get a lot of toxic emails.

Helen