

**Conversation**  
Welcome Home Skagit  
Mt. Vernon Seventh-day Adventist Church  
4520 East College Way, Mt. Vernon, WA 98283  
October 11, 2019

Started at 8:35 am - closed at 9:40  
Larry Paise – Facilitator

Friday Morning notes will be on our website at <http://www.welcomehomeskagit.com>  
If you have something to add to the upcoming agenda, please email [office@welcomehomeskagit.com](mailto:office@welcomehomeskagit.com).

We have started a new Google Groups e-mail group for the Friday Meeting group. It is entitled [welcomehomefridaygroup@welcomehomeskagit.com](mailto:welcomehomefridaygroup@welcomehomeskagit.com).

Invitations to this new group have been sent. Please check your spam folder. You must accept the invite in order to get future meeting minutes and news from Welcome Home Skagit. If you did not receive an invitation, please e-mail [office@welcomehomeskagit.com](mailto:office@welcomehomeskagit.com).

**Housing Summit update:** Skagit County Housing Hero award was given to the Mt. Vernon SDA Church at the summit. Will be presented to our church family in the next week or two. Keynote speaker was a doctor from the hospital. She talked about the impact of those experiencing homelessness on the hospital. Curtis' introduction of the video was excellent. The video was phenomenal! Accolades to those who spoke on the video. Video will be linked to our website.

**Hope Village visit:** Wendi Sanderson shared about her visit to Hope Village. It was quiet at 2:15 pm. The explanation was that everyone was at work. Met a care coordinator who seemed perfectly suited to the job. The kitchen area was immaculately clean. Many of the homes were decorated for Halloween. I was impressed that they made the time for me to tour the village with only last minute notice. There is going to be a three-week teleconference shortly to learn about winter shelter operations. They are opening a permanent year-round shelter in mid-November.

**Safe Parking:** Meeting Monday at 2 pm at the United Methodist Church. Town Council and mayor have received notices. No church has yet come forward to host a safe-parking shelter. Hope is to find a host church and gather a group of representatives from various churches to be volunteers to support the effort!

**Winter Shelter update:** Community meeting went really well. It started out rough, but a woman was there who had just sung for a funeral. She was asked to sing for us, so we all sang "Amazing Grace!" Main concerns were about safety. There were about 25 neighbors in attendance. In one of the meetings we had about neighborhood communication, Tina indicated that she wanted it to come from Friendship House. Generalizations were thrown out at first about people experiencing homelessness, but they seemed to begin to understand the challenges better as we talked. One neighbor suggested that we should focus on system issues rather than individual concerns. Ended with a good spirit.

**Welcome Home Fiscal Sponsorship:** WHS has been approved as a Fiscally Sponsored project of Angels for Angels, an approved 501c3.

Arlene and Larry had a conversation with Rogue Retreat this week. We have asked, and they agreed, to act as consultants and mentors to Welcome Home.

WH opened a bank account yesterday.

Everywhere our Board members go in our public interactions we are receiving positive comments. Many people are eager to help others succeed.

As soon as we have signed documents through Angels for Angels, we will be set up with a donate button on our website. We can also now apply for grant sponsorships. We have a grant application due this Friday.

We changed our name from Welcome Home Community Co-op to Welcome Home Skagit. We will be setting up sub-committees to accomplish certain tasks. Project Dignity, Tiny Home Village, etc.

The relationship between Friday Morning Meeting and Welcome Home has been somewhat confusing. What is the role of this meeting in relationship to WHS? Barbara has assumed that this is WHS's meeting and the agencies walk along side. Keith J thought it was for all the agencies to come together. Curtis sees it as a community forum where WHS can fill gaps and put a face on the issue. Steve Ebsen felt it is confusing from the start. Make up of WHCC was always obscure. Is it just those experiencing homelessness?

We decided that the Friday Meeting would continue as follows:

Mount Vernon SDA Church Community Services will continue to act as host of the meeting.

Welcome Home Skagit will act as sponsor and facilitator of the meeting.

The purpose of the meeting will be where to provide a safe place where like-minded individuals and community organizations can come together to work on solutions to the issues of homelessness and housing instability in Skagit County.

We believe "that by working together we go further." The meeting will be a place where we can bring our best ideas and make them better.

Where it makes sense for an individual or organization to take their idea forward, they are free to do so. Welcome Home Skagit only acts as a facilitator. But, given that we now have a structure and organization where Welcome Home can act as an incubator of new ideas, we can also choose to explore whether it makes sense for Welcome Home Skagit to become a sponsor for some of these new ideas.

The meeting was then adjourned.