I am Karen Bergsvik, a resident of Sammamish. In my professional capacity I work with the homeless locally and regionally. I have served on the Ten Year Plan to end homelessness interagency committee, am the co-lead of the One Night Count of the homeless in a local community, helped start a rotating men's shelter, and recently worked with a city and local churches on converting a wing of a former jail to a day center for homeless women and children.

Homelessness is a regional problem, and local jurisdictions, non-profits and religious organizations, all have a role to play in it. No one entity has enough resources to do it by themselves. It takes partnerships between local government, religious organizations, and non-profits. We in Sammamish do not see many visible homeless in our community. We also don't have many human service organizations located within the city limits - people need to go to Issaquah or Redmond for help. The city funds 6 services that the homeless may use - one of which is in Sammamish at Mary Queen of peace church (st. Vincent de paul). The other services are the Issaquah food and clothing bank, Sophia's way, health care for the homeless, congregations for the homeless and Hopelink. We don't host rotating homeless shelters. We don't operate a cold weather shelter for the homeless. We don't have affordable housing in Sammamish per se - we give funds to Arch to build affordable housing elsewhere on the east side. The habitat housing is a good start. In summary, we don't do much in the area of human services and affordable housing. Tent City gives us the opportunity to do more. What we do have are affluent churches and an incredible volunteer base. For these reasons churches should be allowed to host a camp every 12 months - not every 18 months. If more than one church wants to host a camp in a 12 month period I think it should be allowed; we should be celebrating our community's generosity and commitment to help the homeless instead of complaining about the minimal impact it has to the overall community.

The Managing Agency should be responsible for the code of conduct - not the sponsor. It is ultimately up to the residents to self govern themselves.

Karen Bergsvik