

REGIONAL HOUSING COUNCIL

Wednesday October 26th, 2022 Meeting Minutes

ATTENDEES:

Lacey: Carolyn Cox, Andy Ryder, Rick Walk, Kelly Adams

Tumwater: Michael Althaus, John Doan, Joan Cathey

Olympia: Jim Cooper, Darian Lightfoot, Rich Hoy

Thurston County: Carolina Mejia, Ramiro Chavez, Tom Webster, Keylee Marineau, Jacinda Steltjes, Meghan Porter, Arielle Benson, Jessica Olson

Yelm: Brian Hess

Public: Carly Colgan, Trish Gregory, Jenny Milchenko

Meeting began at 4:00 pm.

Agenda Item 1: Agenda approved, motion and second

Agenda Item 2: Minutes from October 12th meeting, motion and second, approved.

Agenda Item 3: Franz Anderson Proposal

Jacinda and Darian presented a proposal for development of the Franz Anderson site into permanent supportive housing (PSH). This is a 6.2 acre parcel purchased with ARPA funds by Thurston County and City of Olympia earlier this year. Currently the county and Olympia are working with Commerce to construct a tiny home village on the western portion of the property with funds from the Right of Way Initiative. On the eastern portion of the property the goal is to construct PSH units, which is the focus of today's presentation.

In February 2023 Olympia plans to send out an RFP to developers and sponsors asking them to submit a proposal on how they would develop, and then operate, PSH units and a phase 2 plan regarding further development on the western portion of the property. The goal is to initially have 40-70 PSH units to serve low-income single adults with a focus on those who are actively homeless at the time of entry.

A developer is expected to be selected by May 2023. Permitting of the property will go through Olympia. Construction time will be approximately 15-18 months with a goal of full occupancy by June 2026.

Lacey Mayor, Andy Ryder, commented that there is an urgency to obligate ARPA funds to this project as soon as possible so they are not returned to Congress. County Manager Ramiro Chavez also noted that these funds need to be obligated in contract form with the developer so there is no risk of losing these funds.

Rick Walk discussed briefly how Lacey is working to create a funding strategy that both helps support this project and Lacey's needs. Lacey is looking to use general funding dollars to help support the Franz Anderson project.

Jacinda and Darian asked that members discuss this information with their councils and return in December with their funding commitments.

Agenda Item 4: Camp Sweep Proposal

Keylee lead a discussion on creating a process to conduct camp sweeps and removals from a public health perspective. The guidelines in this proposal are based on federal recommendations of best practices around homelessness and come from the United States Intra-Agency Council on Homelessness. The goal is to standardize our best practices with the intent that across county jurisdictions camp sweeps and removals are consistent in how they are handled resulting in minimal harm to the individuals within the camps and frontline staff.

Tumwater Councilmember Michael Althaus, though in support of this proposal, expressed concerns about staff capacity to work on developing these standards. Olympia Councilmember Jim Cooper recommended that criteria around what triggers a displacement be established including timeframes. Andy Ryder sought clarification on how this policy is applied to public versus private property.

RHC members indicated overall support for this proposal and agreed that Keylee and her team should continue to work with the Department of Health to begin the development of this proposal.

Agenda Item 5: RHC Governance

Darian gave an update on the recruitment, nominations, and appointment of the Affordable Housing and Homeless Services advisory boards. Links for the applications will be posted to the RHC website. Applications will be open for 3 weeks starting in January 2023. The Technical Team will review applications based on eligible criteria. This criterion is still being developed but will be presented to the RHC at the December 14th meeting. Once applications have been reviewed, the Tech Team will present nominations to the RHC for approval. If approved, nominations will then go to the BoCC for final approval. Once approved with the BoCC, onboarding and training for new Advisory Board members will begin. The group agreed that this plan is moving in the right direction.

Agenda Item 6: Good of the Order

Keylee asked if the jurisdictions would be interested in having a warm clothing drive which would be coordinated by the Point in Time Count (PIT) Team.

Tom reminded everyone that for November and December there is only one two-hour meeting a month. These will take place November 9th and December 14th.

Meeting Adjourned: 5:33pm

Next Meeting: November 9th, 4:00 pm