

REGIONAL HOUSING COUNCIL

Wednesday November 9th, 2022 Meeting Minutes

ATTENDEES:

Lacey: Carolyn Cox, Scott Spence, Rick Walk,

Tumwater: Michael Althausen, Joan Cathey, Brad Medrud

Olympia: Dani Madrona, Rich Hoy

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

Meeting began at 4:00 pm.

Agenda Item 1: Agenda approved, motion and second

Agenda Item 2: Public Comment

Agenda Item 3: Minutes from October 26th meeting, motion and second, approved.

Agenda Item 4: Proposed Pilot project to reduce smoke and hazardous burning in encampments

Ty Gundel from Olympia Mutual Aid Partners (OlyMAP) and Jeff Johnston from Olympic Regional Clean Air Agency (ORCAA) gave a presentation on a pilot project they have been working on. This project will last a minimum of 6 months with a targeted goal of identifying, mitigating, and reducing challenges associated with hazardous burning within The Jungle, Percival Creek, Nickerson and Sherwood encampments.

ORCAA has decided to partner with OlyMAP on this project because their traditional tools for dealing with complaints of hazardous burning are inadequate when dealing with homeless encampments. Instead, they hope to utilize OlyMAP's one-on-one relationships with these individuals. The two are proposing to provide regularly scheduled outreach which would include educating individuals and providing safer alternatives such as camp stoves, hand warmers, and blankets. Additionally, they would like to provide preventative supplies such as fire extinguishers and additional dumpsters to prevent the burning of trash. To move this project forward OlyMAP will need between \$62K - \$74K in funding for the full 6 months. ORCAA is willing to contribute but more will be needed to cover all costs.

Dani and Michael were concerned that local fire departments had not been a part of this collaboration to date. Ramiro and Michael also shared concerns about some of the supplies that could potentially be provided such as propane tanks.

The RHC agreed that they are interested in this pilot but would like for Ty and Jeff to return during the December 14th meeting before officially voting to move forward. In the meantime, they would like OlyMAP and ORCAA to reach out to local fire departments and address some of the concerns brought forward at this meeting.

Agenda Item 5: RHC Governance Update

Keylee gave an update on the Affordable Housing and Homeless Services advisory boards. Applications to be on these boards will go live the first week of January. Keylee, Jacinda and Darian are developing criteria specific to each board that aims to decrease barriers for those who are applying. They are also in the process of developing the application, rules of engagement, grievance procedures, onboarding, and training materials. They are hoping to have completed and ready to be presented at the December 14th meeting for approval.

Agenda Item 6: 2023 RFP Process Overview

Tom shared a timeline for the 2023 Consolidated Request for Funding Proposals (RFP) process. The Housing Action Team (HAT) has been requested to recommend funding priorities. These recommendations will be proposed to the RHC at the January 11th meeting. Also, at this meeting the RHC Tech Team will present proposed scoring criteria, set asides, and funding levels.

During the January 25th RHC meeting these funding priorities, scoring criteria, funding levels, and set asides will come back to the RHC for approval. Once approved they will move to the BoCC meeting on February 7th for Board approval. Then, the RFP will be released February 25th with applications being due March 31st.

The goal is to have the two Advisory Boards ready to review, score, and present final funding recommendation to the RHC by the April 26th meeting.

Tom also shared a table with estimated revenues for the 2023 RFP year. Several of the funding sources funded through document recording fees, 2060, 2163, 1277 and CHG, are seeing a 35-45% decrease in the amount of funding from previous years. This is due to home sales slowing and people not refinancing their homes. Additionally, the Shelter Program Grant and the Right of Way program were all one-time funding opportunities. At this time, we are unsure if these programs will be coming to an end or refunded. The Rent Assistance and Emergency COVID Funds have all been nearly spent out so they will also not be a part of the 2023 RFP.

Agenda Item 7: ROW Update

Outreach is taking place within the encampments. SafePlace is providing hoteling for individuals fleeing violence who were living in the encampments. There continues to be urgency from the Governor's Office and the Department of Commerce to speed up the clearing of encampments as cold weather begins to set in. Tech Teams have been working on solutions to bring people inside but without an additional hotel to place people the options now are very limited.

The MOA between the County and Jurisdiction to support the purchase and renovation of the Days Inn by the Low Income Housing Institute (LIHI) is almost complete. Lacey is preparing public forums for Wednesday November 16th at 3:00pm and 6:00pm. Each will run 90 minutes and will be held at Lacey City Hall and streamed online. Rick Walk will be the facilitator and there will be a panel for answering questions. This panel will include Scott Spence, Tom Webster, Keylee Marineau, Nathan Pepin, and Josh Castle.

In addition to the public forums they sent out a press release, they are also doing postcard distribution to local business and property owners. They will be doing hand delivery of these postcards to businesses in the immediate area of the Days Inn and they will continue to circulate information on social media.

Agenda Item 8: Scott Spence Farewell

Carolyn read a heartfelt letter thanking Scott for all his work and wishing him the best in his new venture. Participants gave personal thanks to Scott and Scott thanked the group for their work and support.

Agenda Item 9: Good of the Order

Meeting Adjourned: 5:33pm

Next Meeting: December 14th, 4:00 pm