

# REGIONAL HOUSING COUNCIL

Thursday January 21, 2021 Meeting Minutes

## **ATTENDEES:**

Lacey: Carolyn Cox, Lenny Greenstein, Kelly Adams, Rick Walk, Scott Spence

Tumwater: Joan Cathey, Michael Althausser, Brad Medrud, John Doan

Olympia: Jim Cooper, Keith Stahley, Cary Retlin

Thurston County: Carolina Mejia, Tom Webster, Keylee Marineau, Jacinda Steltjes, Katelin Johnson

South County: None

Public: No speakers

Meeting began at 4:30 pm.

**Agenda Item 1:** Agenda approved

**Agenda Item 2:** Public Comment, none

**Agenda Item 3:** Minutes from December: Motion and second, all approved.

## **Agenda Item 4: Status of RHC ILA and 1406 ILA**

Tom gave an update: All jurisdictions have approved the ILA, currently being circulated for signature. Jurisdictions' legal counsel have advised that the 1406 ILA should be incorporated into the RHC ILA. Attorneys have recommended to approve the ILA then proceed with an ILA amendment adding the 1406 language. Amendment language is being drafted.

## **Agenda Item 5: Vote for Vice-Chair**

Jim gave an update to the voting plan, at this time RHC will just vote for a Vice Chair. After the ILA is signed, and at the next RHC meeting, they will vote in a new Chair and Vice Chair for the 2021 term. Carolyn moves to appoint Commissioner Mejia as Vice-Chair, Michael seconds. Commissioner Mejia accepts.

## **Agenda Item 6: RFP Funding Priorities**

Tom gave an update, the funding workgroup met yesterday. Representatives from the HAT attended and gave HAT priorities to the funding group. Tom reviewed funding sources and estimated amounts available:

- Federal HOME \$700,000
- Federal CDBG \$1,000,000 for Tumwater
- Local 2060 funds \$500,000
- State CHG \$800,000
- State HEN \$1,700,000
- Local 2163 funds \$2,900,000
- Human Services Fund \$268,000

Tom clarifies that the priorities are not the recommendations from the RHC funding workgroup, these are the HAT funding recommendations. Jim asks if Tumwater has their funding priorities? Michael indicates they are being finalized. Michael asks if HEN is a housing voucher program or if there are general funds available. Tom confirms it is fairly limited to rent and basic needs, with specific eligibility requirements. Tom adds that out of the 2163 funds, they typically set aside certain amounts for items such as Coordinated Entry, Housing Basic Needs activities, Cold Weather shelter.

Keylee gave further background on the funding process, including the 5-year Homeless Crisis Response Plan, Commerce Homeless response plan requirements, and the racial equity priority from Commerce. Keylee gave an overview of HAT funding priorities and the role of Homeless Housing Hub as local Continuum of Care. HAT priorities include: hiring a racial equity consultant, racial equity within provider administration, outreach, increasing housing placements, wraparound services and maintaining the HCR system. Maintaining the 2-year funding cycle is also important to stability in the system. Overview of capital project objectives including: homeownership, preservation, Permanent Supportive Housing. Jacinda added that many of the capital priorities originated with the Affordable Housing team. There is an RFI used to place projects into a pipeline for future development. This year the RFI will place projects for 2024. The RFP will take applications for the 2021 projects, to confirm readiness. One 2021 project that was in the pipeline for this year is not ready, so there is an opening for another project this year.

Tom asks if any members of Funding Group have key points they want to add. Carolina adds that it would be good to use Olympia's experience with Racial Equity consultant to improve the County process. Carolyn adds that the process they used last year worked well, with input from HAT and final recommendations from RHC, to avoid any potential conflict of interest with agencies/providers. Discussion follows regarding the process over the next month, including timing for detailed priority discussion at the Funding Group meeting. One concern is spending money on consultants, to be sure it is necessary, can it be done without consultant? Question if there is a fund source to pay for the racial equity consultant? Tom adds that 2163 can be used. Discussion follows regarding Olympia equity project, availability of racial equity guidance, steering committee for racial equity. Clarifying question on the RFP versus the RFI for capital projects: the RFI is an application for the future 2024 project, the RFP is for three 2021 projects, and both processes happen simultaneously. Jacinda gave an overview of what projects are currently in the pipeline. Pipeline document will be sent out to RHC via email.

### **Agenda Item 7: Technical Team Updates**

Siting, Keith gave an update: Have determined that the Martin Way/Carpenter site is not feasible for safe parking/mitigation site. Staff recommends not moving forward with that project, determined it would cost over \$500,000 to operate, for 30 parking stalls, and roughly \$100,000 to make the site useable. Currently looking at other locations. County GIS staff have done a great job and provided a list of about 250 potential sites, each jurisdiction is reviewing the list and will discuss at the next Siting meeting. Keylee and Keith are going to propose a scattered site approach. Keylee adds that there would be a contracted agency to provide case management, site management, hygiene and solid waste management, crisis response. Still working on the details of this program, and want to include a path for moving people into housing so will include some funding for housing services, support services, working with Community Court. This approach would be going beyond the current outreach, adding case management to help move people into a different housing arrangement. Discussion follows on

communication of this approach to the public, expanding this as a regional approach across jurisdictions. RHC members approve staff to proceed.

Relationships, Tom gave an update: staff shared the relationship document with the HAT, received a few comments, revised draft is included and ready for final RHC review. Only minor edits have been made. RHC approved the document to be posted to RHC website.

Eviction, Cary gave an update: Governor extended the eviction moratorium to March 31. City of Olympia and the County are both working on contracts with CAC for 1406 funds, an issue is that 1406 funds do not include administrative funding for staff to implement the program. HUD funds for rent assistance are coming to both County and Olympia. County has received \$8.7M for rent and utility assistance. Commerce will also be allocating Federal funds. County Manager has asked that Staff coordinate with other jurisdictions on these new funds. Tumwater's 1406 funds are primarily going as rent assistance through Together. Lacey is working with HomesFirst to provide services for low income residents using 1406 funds.

#### **Agenda Item 8: Future Meeting Time**

Lacey has Council meetings on Thursday's, Councilmember Madrone is also not able to meet on Thursday. Michael adds that he cannot do daytime meetings. Staff will send out a poll to jurisdictions to identify an alternative meeting day and time.

#### **Agenda Item 9: Good of the Order**

Keith adds that Providence reached out regarding the Community Solutions Resource, having difficulty scheduling meetings with everyone. Suggested that they meet with the Tech teams, and staff will give a report out to the RHC.

Joan asks if they should reach out to Multicare, since they are moving into the Community.

#### **Agenda Item 10: Upcoming Meetings**

Meeting Adjourned: 6:00 pm

Next Meeting: February 18, 2021, 4:30 pm