

REGIONAL HOUSING COUNCIL

Wednesday August 10th, 2022 Meeting Minutes

ATTENDEES:

Lacey: Carolyn Cox, Rick Walk, John Koch

Tumwater: Joan Cathey, Michael Althausser, Brad Medrud

Olympia: Jim Cooper, Dani Madrone, Darian Lightfoot, Rich Hoy

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

Yelm: Brian Hess

Public: None

Meeting began at 4:00 pm.

Agenda Item 1: Agenda approved, motion and second

Agenda Item 2: Minutes from July 27th meeting, motion and second, approved.

Agenda Item 3: HEN Update

Keylee gave an update. County staff worked to get August rent sent out, there were a few incorrect addresses and they are working to resolve any issues. The County has contracted with PiPE to provide case management, consultation and support for current HEN clients as well as new referrals. The County has also started the process of working with Livestories to issue checks only for HEN, County will still handle all of the details and Livestories will only issue checks. Upon BoCC approval, they will issue a RFP for the HEN program. This RFP will also include Rapid Rehousing for single adults, as well as new Rental Housing assistance through 1277. This new rental assistance will replace TRAP and ERAP, which are ending. Question: Can staff send information on the new rental assistance program, including eligibility? Yes, staff will email information out. Prioritization will be to those at imminent risk of homelessness.

Agenda Item 4: ROW Proposal Update

The County has received \$37M from the state, including full funding for acquisition of a hotel, and includes \$5M for rehabilitation of the project and 2 years of operating costs. Expectation is that no local funds will be needed for this project, until it converts to permanent housing after 2 years. There was not sufficient staff capacity to submit an application on August 11th for a second hotel. Staff has heard from Commerce that there may be a second round of capital acquisition funds later in the fall.

Councilmember Althausser asked if ARPA funds will expire prior to conversion to permanent housing? Understanding is that the ARPA funds need to be under contract by late 2024, which is roughly around the time the units would be converted. Councilmember Cooper asked if they verified how much funds the County has set aside? County has set aside \$9M and of that \$1.5M is committed to Franz Anderson.

Darian gave an update on Franz Anderson. The project is funded with federal funds and they are working on the federal procurement process, working on a waiver so that the process can move faster to meet Commerce's timeline for the tiny home units. They are continuing to make the right of way

improvements on the property. Jacinda gave an update on the hotel acquisition, closing is anticipated in January but they have communicated they would like to close sooner. Rick stated they have started outreach to adjacent property owners, and are planning a community forum and advisory group. Tom added another item to consider is identifying an operator, this will be an upcoming task.

Keylee provided an update on the status of people moving out of the rights of way. The first camp was the Lilly Rd right of way, and no one is being moved without an offer of a better housing option. Unity Commons had to pause offers for right of way residents due to covid. The current encampment being moved is Pacific, where there are eight distinct areas being addressed individually. Having the tiny homes at Franz Anderson will enable them to make an offer for housing other than Unity Commons.

What is occupancy of second Interfaith facility? That project keeps being delayed due to supply chain issues, currently they are waiting on electrical work that has been delayed several times. That facility will be day center operations, and a hazardous weather pop up operation, but not overnight shelter.

Agenda Item 5: Good of the Order

Chair Cox gave an update, the Port would like to update the RHC on the Oyo Hotel, propose including this on the September 28th meeting agenda. The RHC would also like to invite the Housing Authority to this meeting, and make sure the Senior Housing group knows about this update. Councilmember Althaus added that having the Port attend the RHC, it would be a good opportunity for the RHC to provide feedback on continuing the FAA process, or if they envision partnership in a different way.

Councilmember Hess asked if there was an update about getting information out to the jurisdictions on the governance structure. Tom indicated there is a meeting next week with jurisdiction managers, and plan to bring the structure plan to the next RHC meeting. Councilmember Hess added that the City of Yelm is working on a housing action plan and working on building code revisions to include mixed use and increasing building height. They are also looking to promote heat pumps as more cost effective cooling method for housing.

Councilmember Madrone gave an update for Olympia, the Council passed rental housing policies including extended notifications for rent increases. They are also limiting move in costs to 1 month of rent and limiting pet deposits. Councilmember Cooper added that the Quince Street mitigation site is open.

Keylee gave a reminder that the lived experience steering committee meeting is next Tuesday from 2 - 4.

Councilmember Cox asked the group for information they can share on mobile home park preservation. Tumwater zoning restricts what can be built there as only mobile home parks, so there is not incentive to sell because it cannot be developed into anything else.

Keylee added that a private property owner in Olympia has received funds from their parent company to clear a camp of roughly 50 people off their property in about 3 weeks. This is just for everyone to be aware the effects of this camp being cleared will impact other areas the first week of September.

Meeting Adjourned: 4:58 pm

Next Meeting: August 24th, 4:00 pm