

# REGIONAL HOUSING COUNCIL

Wednesday February 23rd, 2022 Meeting Minutes

## **ATTENDEES:**

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

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

Olympia: Jim Cooper, Dani Madrone, Keith Stahley, Darian Lightfoot

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

South County: Brian Hess

Public: Doug Deforest, Jimmy Mateson, Lisa Streidinger

Meeting began at 4:00 pm.

**Agenda Item 1:** Agenda approved

**Agenda Item 2:** Public Comment

Doug Deforest has been involved in the local housing sector for past 25 years, currently active with the Housing Action Team and Thurston Thrives. Stated that he is discouraged by lack of results in past several years, understand that there are good people involved but the current situation is not working. Recommended looking at San Diego and San Bernardino examples, need a Regional Housing Authority. How can the LOTT model be used to solve the homeless issue in this community.

Lisa Striedinger is a Case Manager at the Mitigation site, did not have a planned statement, just here to listen.

Jimmy Mateson asked to have all agencies involved develop a budget needed to address/solve the entire issue. Also asked for better coordination, work together to identify what is needed to get 100% of the need addressed including going to the state and federal level for funding.

**Agenda Item 3:** Minutes from January, motion and second, approved

**Agenda Item 4: 2022 Request for Proposals**

The County RFP will be released on February 25<sup>th</sup>, this is a smaller funding year because last year they awarded 2 year awards. This year for Capital funds they will have roughly \$1.1M to award, and \$400,000 of 2163 funds for cold and hazardous weather shelter. There will also be \$300,000 of CHG funds. The County will also be issuing a \$1M CDBG RFP for South County. Applications will be due April 1 2022, and staff will come to the RHC in May to get funding recommendations.

Councilmember Althaus asked to clarify, the South County did not prioritize housing? Correct. Councilmember Hess asked about who typically applies for these funds and where to access the application? Discussion follows regarding who may apply for these funds, these are grants that are awarded to local non-profit agencies. The application typically posts to the PHSS Office of Housing and Homeless Prevention website, and will also be posted to the RHC website.

**Agenda Item 5: Technical Team working Group updates**

Tom gave an update on the County Home fund. Olympia and the County are working on an Interlocal Agreement, and will also need to amend the RHC ILA regarding how to manage the funds. County Manager Chavez added that the County is confident they will be able to get the ILA in place quickly, hopefully soon after the RHC retreat.

Keylee gave an update on the Scattered Site project. OlyMAP presented to the RHC last month, and also presented to the BoCC. OlyMAP are assisting people staying at local hotels, and are still engaging with people at 2 other encampments. People have been moving out of the Super 8 and into the new project at the Olympia Inn with OlyMAP. There is also a current declared hazardous weather event. Councilmember Althausen asked if they have a summary of accomplishments that will be updated with the next several months data, for successes and recommendations. They will have a final report similar to what was provided during the presentation, with updated data and recommendations.

Rick gave an update on the potential hotel acquisition for either a shelter or permanent supportive housing. They are working with a specific property, therefore cannot disclose details. County Manager Chavez added that the BoCC will be getting the details on this project on Tuesday.

The Oyo/Port hotel negotiations with the Housing Authority are still pending. Discussion followed regarding the current status with the FAA, what details of the FAA agreement might be able to be modified to accommodate housing at this site.

Keith gave an update on the Franz Anderson property, there is an agreement between Olympia and the County for shared costs for the property. They still need to identify operations funding for any housing development on this site.

Keylee gave an update on the DEI contract for the Homeless Crisis Response System. Confluence Consulting NW has been selected, pending approval by the BoCC. The consultant is ready to begin work, will be developing a steering committee comprised of BIPOC members of the homeless system.

**Agenda Item 6: HAT and RHC retreat update**

Councilmember Cooper updated that staff have been working on the contract and scope of work with the facilitator. Darian gave an overview of the Scope and Deliverables. Discussion followed regarding interviews, additional interviews would be an extra cost, they could remove the catering costs and replace that with additional interviews. Councilmember Cooper suggested more interviews rather than catering and asked about who the interviewees would be? Interviewees include RHC members, each jurisdiction's administrators, plus the HAT executive team. It is important to make sure the facilitator understands the depth needed for the interviews. Discussion follows regarding if interviews should be individuals or groups from each jurisdiction, including cost, ability to speak candidly, and overall importance of this retreat and retreat outcomes including getting all jurisdictions in alignment with common goals.

Councilmember Hess asked about the ultimate goal of the retreat, is it a mission statement, or a guiding document, or just discussion? The 3 priorities for the retreat are to 1) determine how the RHC fits with the HAT, 2) how will the RHC get ahead of the housing crisis to get to general affordable housing stock and 3) how does new County Home fund fit into RHC structure? In the ILA the Homeless Crisis Response

Plan (HCRP) is the guiding document, the HCRP can be found on the RHC website. Ramiro added that he regards the interviews as a way to focus the discussion, need to focus on the big retreat elements to make sure that the limited retreat time addresses the priorities. Councilmember Madrone added that it is important to make sure new RHC members get all of the information they need to get caught up on documents and topics.

Discussion of funding for the retreat: Olympia will front the funds and then will need to be reimbursed by each jurisdiction. Question is if the jurisdiction amounts will be based on the ILA formula which is based on population. Does Councilmember Hess represent just Yelm or all of South County? The other South County cities had decided to not send a representative to the RHC. Commissioner Mejia asked about splitting the cost evenly as the ILA does not talk about retreat costs, and Ramiro added that the retreat is different from other costs as the retreat will re-open the ILA. Councilmember Althausser asked if the full retreat cost could be paid for all of them out of a County regional fund? Tom responded that this is not likely to be an eligible program activity but may be an eligible expense under an administrative fund. Councilmember Cooper added that an even distribution of costs would not be fair for Tumwater or Yelm, and suggested using the HSF fund to pay for the retreat. Tom added that the HSF funds are already allocated to 2021 awardees, with 2 year contracts. Councilmember Hess agreed with Councilmember Cooper that it would be difficult to justify the retreat for Yelm at an even split cost. Mayor Ryder added that they are operating under the ILA and should fund based on what they agreed in the ILA. Councilmember Althausser agreed with Mayor Ryder. Commissioner Mejia disagreed with moving forward with the ILA formula. Ramiro added that the County staff are the primary staff support for the RHC, reminded jurisdictions that he has asked for staff assistance on the RHC.

Motion: Councilmember Cooper moved to accept the Scope of Work as discussed and the funding allocations as presented conditionally on the City and County administrators letting Tom Webster know they are in for their portion of the funds. Second from Councilmember Althausser. Motion carries 4 to 1 with Commissioner Mejia opposed.

#### **Agenda Item 7: Discuss Twice monthly RHC meeting**

At the last RHC meeting they began discussion regarding whether one 1.5 hour meeting is enough each month. They have now extended this meeting to 2 hours, but in instances when they need decisions to be made more quickly they might consider having a second meeting each month. Also the idea of disbanding the RHC funding group and moving all funding discussions to the full RHC was discussed. Chair Cox suggested having a meeting early in the month for items that need timely action, not to include updates and other non-crucial items. Discussion followed regarding keeping the meeting short, people's schedules, staff time, making sure the second meeting is primarily for action items, and work session format. Keylee added that a staff person from the Chair or Co-Chair jurisdiction that is not the County position attend Technical Team meeting and provide administrative assistance. Mayor Ryder pointed out that the RHC may change after the retreat, and operate differently. Councilmember Madrone added that the Funding workgroup disbanding and the addition of the second meeting do not align, as the funding workgroup meeting can be as long as 2 hours. Disbanding the funding workgroup is held for further discussion at the next meeting. Councilmember Cooper summarized that they should add the short meeting, then can cancel that meeting after the retreat once they know what the new RHC structure looks like. Motion and second. All agreed.

#### **Agenda Item 8: Good of the Order**

Councilmember Cooper added that as community bring questions about the mitigation site, the message is that the mitigation site is what it was planned to be, it is a temporary site in response to crisis.

Meeting Adjourned: 6:03 pm

Next Meeting: March 23rd, 4:00 pm