REGIONAL HOUSING COUNCIL

Wednesday January 26th, 2022 Meeting Minutes

ATTENDEES:

Lacey: Carolyn Cox, Andy Ryder, Kelly Adams, Scott Spence, Rick Walk
Tumwater: Michael Althauser, 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: Holly Smith
Public: Tye Gundel, Brian Hess, Jennifer Milchenko

Meeting began at 4:00 pm.

Agenda Item 1: Agenda approved

Agenda Item 2: Public Comment: None

Agenda Item 3: Minutes from October and December, motion and second, approved

Agenda Item 4: Vote for Chair and Vice Chair

Councilmember Cooper offers a thanks to the County jurisdictions for forming this Council and organizing this conversation and identifying ways to do this work together. Housing is the most important issue to citizens at the moment, all residents are touched by this issue. Commended staff work on this subject, reminded elected officials that their messages and comments can make staff work more difficult.

Councilmember Cooper reminded the Council that this process occurs annually, the new Chair will run the next meeting. Nominations: Carolyn Cox for Chair, no other nominations. Vote: all in favor, Councilmember Cox elected Chair. Councilmember Cox added a reminder to commit to work together and give grace to each other. Co-Chair nomination: Commissioner Mejia. Vote: all in favor, Commissioner Mejia elected Vice-Chair.

Agenda Item 5: Scattered Site Project status

Keylee gave an update, with Tye Gundel and Jenny Milchenko from OlyMAP. In the fall of 2020 in lieu of finding a safe parking site for those parking on Ensign Rd, they developed a Scattered Site pilot program to provide site management and case management to those living in 3 sites around the County. OlyMAP was contracted to provide services. This is the 6 month check-in to inform the RHC about how the project is going. OlyMAP sent a packet of information for RHC review, including case management data, their process and procedures for site management.

Tye gave an update, as program coordinator for OlyMAP, and Jennifer Milchenko, data management for OlyMAP. This pilot project arose because there are not enough shelter beds or housing in the community. Intention was to pilot a more effective response to camp communities and provide shelter

in place assistance to camp communities. Focus was to provide case management and services to camp communities to provide help and connection to social services. They are contracted to work on Deschutes Parkway (currently at hotels in the area), Ensign road, and Wheeler Ave.

Some outcomes from case management, they have worked with about 180 individuals. Case management program is mobile, outreach based, meet people where they are, low barrier. They do not have enough case managers to meet the need, therefore they prioritize based on risk and vulnerability. Have provided case management to 65 people, had about 240 referrals, most referrals were for basic needs such as housing, medical, basic hygiene needs. Provided information on site support process and collective management including self governance. Presented an example of collective management at Nickerson.

Challenges include a crisis driven approach, having to make decisions quickly. The second challenge is sweep or displacement, when there is no option for other housing options to locate people. About half of the people they were working with were displaced by Deschutes and Ensign sweeps, and they have lost contact with many of them. Other challenges are conflicting goals and lack of site control, as well as staff burn out. Positive outcomes include case management and ability to mitigate some crisis situations. Tye gave an overview of future priorities and objectives including defined goals, reduced crisis response, unified narrative ad communication.

Chair Cooper commended their written summary. How can the contract be modified to make the future priorities happen? Will incorporate these into their weekly meetings with County staff. Chair Cooper would also like to ensure that OlyMAP staff is taken care of. City of Olympia has moved 369 tons of garbage, contract funds are nearly expended. Hope is that Olympia will be fully staffed shortly to alleviate the crisis response. Tom added that the City has reached out about amending their contract budget to modify the use of funds to direct funds where they are most needed. Keylee adds that this is a brand new agency that has taken on a lot in the last 6 months.

Agenda Item 6: 2022 Request for Proposals

Tom gave an overview of the 2022 RFP. In 2021 there was a substantial funding award as 2-year contracts, therefore this year's funds available are less. Funds in this RFP will include:

- HOME funds for capital development,
- CDBG funds for the South County jurisdictions,
- 2060 funds for capital projects,
- 2163 homeless services fund for cold and hazardous weather

Total HSF funds available this year will be $291,041, which is roughly $18K more than last year to allocate for the second year of 2-year contracts. Tom gave a summary of the 2163 Set-Asides for 2022, including the second year of the Coordinated Entry and Housing Basic Needs contracts. Recommendation is to increase the cold and hazardous weather set aside to $400,000. Proposed schedule is to issue the RFP on February 25th, applications will be due April 1st. RHC final recommendations will be in May and approvals by BoCC in June to complete the HUD annual action plan in July.

For the Request for Information for future capital projects, the recommendation is to hold this RFI process until they have more information on the Home Fund, to incorporate the Home Fund into the

RFI. They are also waiting on guidance from Commerce on future 1277 funds, staff will come back to the RHC for 1277 activity recommendations. This will involve a second RFP process for 1277 funds, later in 2022.

Action requested: Approve the set asides for 2022, and approve a cold and hazardous weather and capital projects RFP. Recommendation for additional $18K of HSF funds is to distribute those funds among existing awardees for the second year.

Question to clarify hazardous weather, is this not just cold weather? Yes it includes heat, smoke, other hazards.

Motion regarding the Set Aside recommendations from the funding subcommittee. Move to approve the proposed 2163 set asides for 2022 and a second. All approved.

Motion to approve the RFP for Cold and Hazardous weather and capital projects, second. All approved. The Capital projects will be for the current pipeline, and any other projects are able to apply.

Motion to approve distribution of $18K additional HSF funds to existing 21/22 awardees on a proportional basis and a second. All approved.

Agenda Item 7: Technical Team Working Group Updates

Commissioner Mejia updated on the BoCC vote to pass the Home Fund Ordinance. They are happy with the final ordinance and excited to work on this project.

Keylee gave an update on the DEI consultant, they received 2 applications and the review panel will include BIPOC and persons with lived experience from local providers.

Tom added that on the Home Fund ordinance they will be meeting with County Manager Chavez to determine the next steps. Manager Chavez added that the ordinance is fairly prescriptive about how the Home Fund will operate, they will be working on an agreement with the City Olympia about combining funds. They will also be finalizing how the RHC will oversee the Home Fund. On the RHC and HAT retreat, it would be helpful to have an in-depth Home Fund conversation at the retreat, the RHC structure, and including how the executive arm of the RHC will operate, and the citizen group. Mayor Ryder adds that Lacey has started to discuss the updated interlocal and the next steps for the RHC, any structural changes coming to the RHC including dedicated staff, policy, and communication.

Agenda Item 8: HAT and RHC Retreat Updates

Chair Cooper asked if the RHC is Ok with him working with Carolyn as the leads on the retreat planning. RHC agreed this is OK. Chair Cooper gave a summary of retreat topics: Home Fund discussion, Committee structure, HAT and subcommittees relationship with RHC, a lot to cover at the retreat that may not all fit into 4 hours. Everyone should be aware that this will be a time commitment, likely 2 different days not back to back to meet people's schedules. Four topics: 1) What is the strategic vision for the next few years, 2) what is the organizational structure and meetings, 3) what is the upstream work to get ahead of the crisis response including funding, 4)initiatives including Community Solutions, 5 year plan, and the DEI consultant. They would like to bring in a retreat facilitator, and get the facilitator to help set agenda/scope. Recommendation is to engage with Megan from Athena Group as facilitator, within the costs of a small works procurement for all jurisdictions.

Concerns: Mayor Ryder adds that a month is too far away to wait, perhaps the RHC needs to meet more often to ensure items can be handled more frequently. Scott asked about HAT, should the retreat be limited to RHC to resolve RHC issues prior to meeting with HAT. Perhaps one day of the retreat is just the RHC and the second day includes the HAT. Carolina asks to hear from staff regarding meeting more frequently. Tom agrees that meeting more frequently would be beneficial, and there is also a staff capacity issue to support more frequent meetings. Discussed increasing meeting to 2 hours for now. Discussion follows regarding the timeline of the Interlocal with the County and Olympia. Two processes happening, both the new ILA's as well as changing the structure of the RHC and ensuring that the RHC business can get accomplished. Agree to change meeting to 4:00 – 6:00 meeting. Carolyn would like RHC to inquire if they are able to call special meetings in cases where they need to vote or resolve rapid decisions as needed.

Agenda Item 9: Good of the Order

Meeting Adjourned: 5:40 pm

Next Meeting: February 23rd, 4:00 pm