

# REGIONAL HOUSING COUNCIL

Wednesday June 8th, 2022 Meeting Minutes

## **ATTENDEES:**

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

Tumwater: Michael Althaus, Joan Cathey, Brad Medrud

Olympia: Jim Cooper, Dani Madrone

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

South County: Brian Hess

Public: NA

Meeting began at 4:00 pm.

**Agenda Item 1:** Agenda approved, motion and second

**Agenda Item 2:** Minutes from May 25th meeting, motion and second, approved. Councilmember Althaus abstained.

### **Agenda Item 3: Retreat Review**

Keylee discussed the Letter and Artifacts from the retreat consultants, the Athena Group. The letter summarizes the original purpose, thoughts, and recommendations, including the 3 key decisions identified at the end of the retreat. One big takeaway was regardless of the governing structure, more staff is needed to keep moving tasks forward. Keylee gave an overview of the North Star discussion and artifacts from retreat day 2, and a brief overview of other retreat topics and related artifacts. The letter gives a good outline of what the RHC has to work from, and the RHC Tech Team has a mini-retreat planned for Friday to identify and discuss next steps.

Discussion followed regarding moving forward with an independent entity, importance of helping the unstably housed, what are the next steps and decisions to move forward. Councilmember Cooper added that the letter and artifacts are very helpful, especially the decisions identified at the end of the letter. It is crucial to get out of crisis intervention and get to long term solutions to increase housing stock.

Request to discuss the process the Technical Team is starting to address the next steps. They have received feedback from HAT members who attended the retreat, and there is some concern that the jurisdictions would return to business as usual. Governance needs to be discussed and worked on, and they need to develop a model on how to ensure meaningful participation, including subject matter experts and people with lived experience. The focus for the Tech Team on Friday is to develop the next steps for the governance model and priorities.

Councilmember Madrone asked about capacity and timing in regards to new funding coming in. What is the support system needed for the RHC to increase capacity? There is need for additional capacity in the long term as well as short term, there is a lot going on including the ROW, DEI, Built for Zero, plus the RHC governance. Consensus regarding need for more staff, they are currently limited by each

jurisdiction's ability to provide staff time. Discussion follows regarding staffing and hiring, funding, timing for hiring. County Manager Chavez adds that they need to resolve the Interlocal Agreement, to outline the funding for additional staff, prior to staffing plan being brought to the BoCC. City/County Home interlocal agreement timeline is completion within the next few weeks, it is about 90% complete. Then the RFP interlocal needs to be revised to address the Home dollars and administrative structure, which should be the focus of the RHC in the short term. Discussion follows regarding new staff helping to guide the RHC through this process, Tech Team retreat objectives, inclusion of other County jurisdictions in the agreement, and if other jurisdictions would want to participate. Idea of hiring a consultant during this development phase may be helpful. Athena group also recommended that members of the RHC attend HCRP related meetings.

#### **Agenda Item 4: WA State Right of Way Update**

Keylee gave some background: Staff just met with Commerce, the State plans to clear the DOT Right of Ways. There are some interagency agreements out to jurisdictions from the State. The County agreement includes a pass through for Interfaith Works to set aside some beds (24) for the next 3 years, and outreach for the next 3 years. 24 beds are not enough, and those beds becoming available without displacing anyone will take longer than the state would like. They are in discussion about how many beds to have available and by when. Intent is to have beds available by fall. The County will need to submit a plan to the State, if the plan is not approved the State has indicated they will contract directly with provider. Olympia intends to have their agreement by end of July, outlining their plan to build a tiny home village on the Franz Anderson property. There is ongoing operating funds over 3 years and one time Capital fund available from the State for this.

#### **Agenda Item 5: Good of the Order**

Councilmember Cooper acknowledged the hard work of the Tech Team.

The Rent Assistance portal will close on June 15<sup>th</sup> because they believe they will expend all the funds with current applications.

Meeting Adjourned: 4:55 pm

Next Meeting: June 22nd, 4:00 pm