

REGIONAL HOUSING COUNCIL

Thursday November 19, 2020 Meeting Minutes

ATTENDEES:

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

Tumwater: Joan Cathey, Michal Althausen, Brad Medrud

Olympia: Jim Cooper, Keith Stahley

Thurston County: John Hutchings, Ramiro Chavez, Schelli Slaughter, Tom Webster, Keylee Marineau, Jacinda Steltjes

South County: JW Foster

Public: Peter Cook

Meeting began at 4:30 pm.

Agenda Item 1: Agenda approved

Agenda Item 2: Public Comment

Peter Cook: representing an association of faith-based communities. They have worked with Olympia to establish the first tiny home community and help build their homes. Look forward to working with RHC on more projects. Michael asks Peter to submit comments in writing as well, because audio problems prevented full comment. Jim adds that Peter has asked how to help engage more faith communities around the County.

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

Agenda Item 4: Status of RHC Interlocal Agreement (ILA)

Tom gave an update, have reached out to Mayor Shaw in Rainier, have not heard back. County Attorney has reached out and not heard back as well. Staff will update RHC as soon as they have information.

Agenda Item 5: 1406 ILA

Brad gave some background, staff crafted an ILA for future use of 1406 in 2021 and going forward. ILA structure is based on the RHC ILA. Drafted with a 5-year term and refers back to RHC ILA for governance. Scope of work is contained in items 5 – 8 in the ILA. Discussion follows regarding bonding, reporting back to Councils, ensuring regional impact. Reporting back to the State is also required. Keith highlights the importance of maintaining operating funds for housing projects. Discussion continues regarding debt service, leveraging these funds, short (immediate) term and long term (future) projects.

Brad gave an overview of funding section, including who collects it and who manages it. Will BoCC have final approval, and what does that mean, or is there another structure to be considered? Whoever holds the funds takes on the liability. RHC is the decision-making body but the County is the entity that holds the funds and does the reporting. Discussion follows regarding how long to hold funds with the County if no awards are made. Some members do not want funds to sit too long, they want to see funds out in the Community. Jim asks if they should develop a 3 - 5 year plan then have an annual specific plan, like

what is done for Federal funds. Question raised about how to define a project, in context of short and long term plans as well as funding commitments, do they want to revise to “project and/or action”. Discussion follows on 1 year and 3-5 year plan, including breakout of what portion of funds to be used on categories of housing. Brad will incorporate these comments and bring revised draft back to future meeting. Another clarification, there is no administration fees included with 1406 funding, this would be a good topic to bring to AWC.

This ILA will begin January 1, 2021, currently each jurisdiction is working to get their 2020 1406 funds out as rent assistance or in accordance with each jurisdiction’s priorities.

Agenda Item 6: Safe Parking

Keylee gave an update, safe parking group is having conversations with providers and jurisdictions. Looking at parking lot of Olympia firing range at Carpenter/Martin Way. They have met with fire department, Olympia City Staff, and providers. Number of vehicles that can park there will depend on if both parcels will be used or just one parcel. Keith adds that there is no sewer, will need portable restrooms, and no power at upper parcel. County has committed a significant amount of funds, however the costs will be higher than initial commitment, may need more from jurisdictions. Tom adds that the \$530K is a mix of funds, CDBG-CV, ESG-CV, EHG, and 2163 Emergency fund, each with their own set of rules.

Agenda Item 7: Technical Team working group updates

Siting Committee, Keith: Talked about safe parking at their last meeting, as well as hygiene services. Keylee and Keith will be meeting with YMCA to look at potential use of their building as warming center. Interfaith Works project at the new Martin Way location is in progress, working on permitting. Meg is still looking for additional funds for a \$250K gap. There is also a new Family Support Center project on the west side, 80 units of supportive housing for families, and they are also in need of some additional funds to fill a gap of about \$150K for the 10 new shelter beds they are creating. Cold Weather shelter and day center, they have been talking to Providence about CCC, that facility is on hold. Keylee can share the current bed capacity document where shelter providers are entering their nightly beds. Salvation Army update: they are doing a case management transitional housing program, serving over 55 or veterans who apply for a bed and meet criteria, may add an additional 10 beds.

Tumwater and Lacey are both looking to give funds to Interfaith and Family Support.

Funding and RFP team, Tom: Funding workgroup met and reviewed the calendar for the 2021 funding cycle, the RFP is issued in February, and awards in April/May. They have reached out to the HAT to provide priorities for the RFP, including capital projects. Staff will come back to RHC in January to get input on what RHC wants priorities to be. In February they will finalize scoring and funding amounts, and final RFP approval, and release the RFP at the end of February. Applications will be due April 2, reviewers will score applications in April, and bring recommendations to RHC in May. Intent is to include 1406 in the RFP, will just need direction on use of the funds.

County is continuing the CARES-funded housing and shelter activities using ESG-CV funds, will continue contracts with existing providers. There will be some ESG-CV funds remaining, County will be looking at opportunities for this fund.

Eviction Team: Eviction prevention after December remains a priority, possibility of additional funding though December 31. The County added \$1.6M to the eviction prevention program, can be up to 6 months of assistance, increased eligibility to 80% AMI, and can serve people more than once.

Policy Team: Relationship group, Tom: Relationship group has met several times, discussing the RHC relationship with the HAT and HAT subgroups, and groups/agencies in the Homeless Response system. Drafted a roles and responsibilities document, Tom will send this document out to RHC for comments at the December meeting, and also will share with HAT for feedback from that group. Highlights of broad areas in relationship document: who makes funding decisions, HCRP and who tracks this plan, who makes policies, who does education and advocacy.

Policy Team: Common Understanding, Keylee: Group has met a few times to finalize the glossary of terms, included in packet. The basis of this glossary is the HCRP glossary, with some new terms and acronyms. Send any questions or comments to Keylee.

Agenda Item 8: Public Comment Continued

None

Agenda Item 9: Good of the Order

Keith got a call from Angela Mackey, wants to remind the RHC about Community Solutions, consulting firm that handles homelessness work, want to interview/talk to Committee members as part of the project. Reach out to Keith if you are interested. Jim adds that it would be good for each jurisdiction to participate.

Rick gave an update on the Genesis project, with North Thurston Public Schools and Homes First. Looking to acquire house for homeless students to be able to finish their school year.

Carolyn, working with WDOT to remove debris and garbage from I-5 camp area, and discussion with residents to continue with current residents but discourage additional people.

Reminder from Schelli to not gather and limit COVID risk during upcoming holidays. Joan asks about care facilities in Thurston County. Schelli adds there have been 12 care facility outbreaks, and most of the County deaths have been associated with these facilities. Have expanded testing, but with cases this high it is difficult to meet demand.

Agenda Item 10: Upcoming Meetings

Meeting Adjourned: 6:00 pm

Next Meeting: January 21, 2021, 4:30 pm