

REGIONAL HOUSING COUNCIL

Thursday October 15, 2020 Meeting Minutes

ATTENDEES:

Lacey: Carolyn Cox, Lenny Greenstein, Kelly Adams, Rick Walk

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

Olympia: Jim Cooper, Renata Rollins, Keith Stahley, Cary Retlin

Thurston County: John Hutchings, Ramiro Chavez, Katelin Johnson, Tom Webster, Keylee Marineau, Jacinda Steltjes

South County: JW Foster

Public: Meg Martin (Interfaith Works), Sam Gibbon (Port), and 18 members of the public

Meeting began at 5:00pm.

Agenda Item 1: Agenda approved with one modification to delay Interfaith Works agenda item until Ramiro joins the meeting.

Agenda Item 2: Public Comment

Debra King: No need to comment, just plans to listen.

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

Agenda Item 4: Status of Interlocal Agreement (ILA)

Tom: update on the status, Olympia, Lacey, Tumwater and County have approved. Rainier City Council met on Tuesday, they did not make a decision. Their Attorney has questions and is in contact with County Attorney. Both Tenino and Bucoda have declined to sign. Yelm has approved.

Communications team press release update: The agenda includes a draft press release for RHC comment, do they want to hold on issuing the release until Rainier decides? Keylee wants to point out that the ILA language also has bearing on the RHC website. Decision is to hold the press release until they have response from Rainier and send any edits to Keylee.

Agenda Item 6: Technical Team working group updates

Siting Committee, Keith: At least week's meeting they started the evaluation process. Have made progress with technology, City GIS manager has developed a siting tool to evaluate sites with criteria. Agreement that they should all use the same criteria (distances to variables, size, environmental). Althaus adds that they looked at some potential sites within Olympia. Tumwater is now applying the tool to their maps to add to the list of potential sites. Rick adds that Lacey has also started this process. Keith adds they are looking at long term, medium term, and short term properties.

Safe Parking: Olympia is in the process of providing notice to persons on Ensign Rd. There is not an alternate location at this point. Concerns include access to ER at Providence, wetlands, traffic impacts. After vehicles are dispersed, there will be no parking on Ensign for some time. Discussion follows

regarding where RVs might relocate. Keylee adds that the estimate (Natl Association of Housing Agencies) is that there will be over 170,000 evictions filed in January 2021, and there are no best practices in place for safe parking. Olympia passed an anti-eviction ordinance through July 2021.

Policy Team: Common Understanding, Keylee: Met twice in the past month, to look at case law. Question for RHC, do they want to look at Case law and interpretation? Another question, do they want to first focus on terms/glossary? The next task is to complete the glossary. Lenny Greenstein adds that attorneys do not appear to be comfortable dealing in hypotheticals for the case law topic. Discussion follows on case law topic.

Policy Team: Relationship group, Tom: First meeting was last week, and included several local providers. Discussed the role of RHC vs Thurston Thrives and HAT. Working to develop how the groups will relate and work together.

Eviction Team, Cary: Goal is to improve collaboration and coordination on residential evictions. They will meet once a month. They are reviewing the status of the ERAP program. As of end of September, CAC has spent around \$700K, served about 230 households, most people are getting 3 months of rent assistance. CYS has spent around \$20K. Question for RHC, ERAP has to be spent by the end of December, does RHC want the team to bring options for other resources to RHC to extend program past Dec 30 date. They can bring options to next meeting.

Funding and RFP team, Tom: They have met and discussed the HHSC process, and how they may want to change this process. Questions for RHC: 1) what role does RHC want to play in priorities and funding decisions? 2) Should workgroup bring priority ideas to RHC, or does RHC want to develop priorities? 3) Where does 1406 fit in RHC? 4) HHSC emergency fund, request for \$60K from Olympia for micro-shelters, what is their process for emergency funds? Discussion follows regarding past HHSC process for Emergency Fund Request, timing of RFP priority development, RFP deadline, process to develop priorities. Important to emphasize and utilize the knowledge of existing staff and members on the RFP and priorities.

Keith was invited to give information on Emergency request, to construct microhomes, budget, object is to replace tents at mitigation site. This proposal is not a replacement for shelter, but an improvement over tents. Motion to direct the funding group to make recommendation to BoCC to fund this request. Moved and second. All approved.

Agenda Item 5: Interfaith Works project proposal

Tom gives background on project: Interfaith is operating a shelter at 2828 Martin Way to add shelter beds in response to Covid. They need to move the location in early November to allow construction to start on new building. Interfaith has been looking for an alternate location to acquire to relocate. Meg Martin adds additional information: property to accommodate short term emergency needs 1)relocate the people at 2828 temporary shelter and 2) add 15 shelter beds under new Commerce grant, as well as provide long term shelter solution. Have a private donor helping to provide some funding for acquisition. Viable location has been identified. Looking to install a somewhat temporary structure that is warrantied for 15 – 20 years. Can be fully ADA accessible with windows, doors, floor, HVAC system. Will be over 5,000 sq ft to accommodate 38 beds. Intention is to move the shelter bed guests into the 2828 PSH when that is completed in December 2021. After that, the structure would be used as a day

center to fill that gap. They have CARES act funds from United Way/Thurston County, plus the Shelter Program Grant. Have a gap of roughly \$1M.

Tom adds other potential funding sources: Emergency Solutions Grant- Covid from Commerce. County is receiving \$3.9M intended to support shelter and rapid rehousing activities. Commerce indicates that this is an eligible use, however HUD feedback said they would consider it new construction so not eligible for ESG CV. Other sources: Shelter Grant Program allows \$10K for capital, could be offset using ESG for operations of facility. 2163 funding could potentially be used, or the 2163 Emergency Fund. Ramiro adds that he believes they need to make an effort to find a way to make this work it is a good project at relatively low cost. Discussion follows regarding timeline and funding options, crucial deadlines for project, needs of Interfaith to proceed. Carolyn discloses that she serves on the Interfaith works board. Motion: RHC recommends to staff and BoCC to fund this project as quickly as possible and report back to RHC on progress. Added to motion, jurisdictions will attempt to help with gaps in funding. Motion seconded, all approved.

Agenda Item 7: Public Comment Continued

None

Agenda Item 8: Good of the Order

Carolyn adds that campers along I5 are being notified they can stay but there will be clean-ups happening, and agreement that no new campers can be added to these sites. Lacey has worked with DOT to develop this approach.

Agenda Item 9: Upcoming Meetings

Can members meet at 4:30 going forward? All are able, meeting time moved to 4:30.

Meeting Adjourned: 6:40 pm

Next Meeting: November 19, 4:30 pm