

# REGIONAL HOUSING COUNCIL

Wednesday October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021 Meeting Minutes

## **ATTENDEES:**

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

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

Olympia: Jim Cooper, Dani Madrone, Cary Retlin, Darian Lightfoot

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

South County: JW Foster, Holly Smith

Public: Jimmy Madsen

Meeting began at 4:02 pm.

**Agenda Item 1:** Agenda approved

**Agenda Item 2:** Public Comment

Jimmy Madsen asked the RHC to support Olympia with funding for beds and storage totes at the Mitigation site.

Lisa Gilotti with Build a Bus Home and Shower Power, reported that they are focusing their services on one location, at Capital Christian Center on Saturdays. They are looking for additional volunteers.

Cary Retlin added that Olympia met with CCS to discuss additional funds for beds and cots at the mitigation site, as much as Olympia can.

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

**Agenda Item 4:** Hotel and Rapid Rehousing RFP Recommendation

Tom gave an update: The County will receive \$1.6M from the 1277 document recording fee fund for hotel vouchers and rapid rehousing projects. The RFP was issued last month. They received 6 applications, the Review Team reviewed the applications and made recommendations to the Funding Team. The Funding Team has forwarded their recommendations to the RHC. With their approval County staff will complete the funding application to commerce for the \$1.6M.

Requests included:

1. Community Action Council, Rapid Rehousing
2. Family Support Center, Hotel Vouchers
3. Love Abounds Here, Rapid Rehousing and Hotel Vouchers. Rapid Rehousing proposal was not in compliance with Low Barrier requirements from Commerce.
4. OlyMAP, Hotel Vouchers, including Scattered Site program as well as Emergency Hotel stays for times when camps are removed.
5. Pierce County Aids Foundation, Rapid Rehousing
6. Safeplace, both Rapid Rehousing and Hotel Vouchers

The Review Team prioritized Rapid Rehousing for full funding. The Funding Workgroup recommended most of the same amounts as the Review Team, with one difference to give \$10,000 more to Love Abounds Here. Funding Group recommendation includes funding to all applicants, however some would not receive their full request.

Mayor Foster asked if Love Abounds Here has established a connection with the one hotel in Yelm. Their application identified the Yelm Prairie hotel.

Councilmember Althaus asked for more information on OlyMAP, are they a non-profit, do they have the structure to operate, and capacity. OlyMAP is a new organization, the County contracts with them to operate the Scattered Site program. Their fiscal sponsor Angels For Angels is the contractor with the County and they handle the billing.

Motion to approve the Hotel Voucher and Rapid Rehousing application at \$1,584,399 per the Funding Group recommendation, motion and second. Commissioner Mejia commended the Technical Team for the tight turnaround. All approved.

Commerce will likely issue additional 1277 funding early in 2022.

#### **Agenda Item 5: Martin Way and Carpenter Rd Project Update**

Keylee gave an update, County staff submitted a complete application to Community Planning for temporary use at the site. Community Planning will expedite the application review, and staff will have a public meeting next Thursday. They are asking that the public pre-submit their questions so that they can have answers ready. Multiple panelists will be present including staff from the County, Olympia, Providence, OlyMAP, and Sherriff representatives.

Tom gave information on the MOU regarding Safe Parking and Martin Way site. The Martin Way site portion of the MOU refers to the 6 – 7 months of use of the Martin Way temporary use permit. The second phase of the MOU is regarding a longer term solution including property acquisition and development of the acquired property.

Councilmember Greenstein added that it is mistake to not have a public hearing, the public is frustrated. Chair Cooper added that this is a difficult time for a project, nothing is ideal in the current situation, confident that the plan is a good one to accommodate concerns. Councilmember Cox added that Lacey meetings on this subject run very long, recommend that the County meeting be allowed to run and not cut off due to time. Vice-Chair Mejia added that they hope the meeting clears up any circulating misinformation, and emphasized that they all are partners in this.

#### **Agenda Item 6: Technical Team working group updates**

Tom gave an update on the Permanent Supportive Housing framework. They made some revisions based on comments from the RHC and partner jurisdictions. Looking for comments. Councilmember Althaus added that the reference to the hotel in Tumwater is good to include.

County Manager Chavez added that one of the biggest concerns is County staffing. Ramiro is asking partner jurisdictions to commit to increase capacity of staff to complete this work. Need one full time position for about 2 years to work on these projects. Ramiro has presented a proposal to City Managers, with costs of the additional staff allocated based on the Interlocal agreement. Chair Cooper spoke to Jay

Burney about this, Olympia has set aside \$2M of ARPA funds for this PSH project, their suggestion is to pool the ARPA funds into the whole proposal and take the admin and staffing costs out of that. Councilmember Althaus spoke to John Doan and Councilmember Cathey. They would like to see as much as possible go to creating beds, but understand that it takes staff time. Would like to have specific discussion about job duties. Councilmember Cox adds that they have not discussed this and holds comment until she can talk to Council.

Ramiro is looking for an acknowledgement of the need for additional staff from the RHC, and direction to work with City Managers to move this forward. All agreed.

Keylee gave an update on the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion RFP, it is specific to the Homeless Crisis Response System (HCRS) and the RHC set aside \$150,000 to address this issue. Commerce has also tasked all HCRS to address this issue with measurable outcomes. Current deadline for applications is November 12<sup>th</sup>. Currently working to develop an equitable Review Panel and to ensure the process is meaningful to the System.

The County Home Fund public hearing will happen November 23<sup>rd</sup>. Currently accepting public comment. Ramiro requests to have written response from the Cities prior to or at the public hearing.

#### **Agenda Item 7: HAT and RHC Retreat Update**

Chair Cooper has been attending the HAT subgroup meetings, very happy with the level of engagement and all the partners present at these meetings. Noted that the Senior Housing group serves a large portion of the population including a large number of unhoused seniors. The plan for a joint meeting is to hold a retreat in the spring. Manager Chavez encouraged the RHC to engage with Thurston Thrives Coordinating Council. Councilmember Cox mentioned reaching out to the Chamber as they are holding discussions/meetings on chronic homelessness.

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

Chair Cooper noted that the next RHC meeting is the week of Thanksgiving, would suggest combining the November and December meetings to one meeting on December 8<sup>th</sup> at 4pm. All agree.

Councilmember Althaus added that Tumwater had a work session where they discussed and supported the countywide Home Fund, he expects Tumwater will provide formal support.

Scott Spence asked if they could all identify the ARPA funds from each jurisdiction that are being committed so they know the total amount available. Could they come with those numbers to the next RHC? Lacey is willing to do full 100%, which is over \$6M. If jurisdictions are comfortable putting in specific numbers into the PSH plan Tom can add that, first Manager Chavez will talk to jurisdiction managers to confirm the amounts.

Keylee added she met with the King County Regional Homeless Authority representative about their regional efforts and has invited them to attend an RHC meeting.

Meeting Adjourned: 5:25 pm

Next Meeting: December 8th, 2021, 4:00 pm