

REGIONAL HOUSING COUNCIL

Thursday September 17, 2020 Meeting Minutes

ATTENDEES:

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

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

Olympia: Jim Cooper, Keith Stahley

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

South County: JW Foster

Public: Sam Gibbony (Port), Angela Maki (Providence)

Meeting began at 5:00pm.

Agenda Item 1: Agenda approved

Agenda Item 2: Minutes from August: Motion and second, all approved.

Agenda Item 3: Status of Interlocal Agreement (ILA)

Tom gave a brief update: Olympia, Tumwater, Lacey, Yelm and Thurston County have passed the ILA. Rainier is scheduled for October Council meeting. County staff have not received a status from Bucoda. Tenino mayor is going to reach out to Commissioners to discuss the ILA. Staff is waiting to gather signatures on the ILA after all jurisdiction approvals, and will use DocuSign.

Agenda Item 4: Elections

Group discusses the elections given that the ILA is not executed.

Cooper calls a vote on if Chair election should occur today: majority vote yes.

This chair position will carry until a new election held in January per the ILA, and after the ILA is signed they will re-affirm today's action. Either the Chair or Vice Chair needs to be a County Commissioner (lead agency).

Foster nominates Councilperson Jim Cooper for Chair. No further nominations. All aye, all approved, motion carries.

Vice Chair nominations: Commissioner Hutchings. Motion to elect John Hutchings to Vice Chair, all aye, motion carries.

Agenda Item 5: Public Comment

Chair Cooper states that there is no requirement per the public meeting act. Discussion: general agreement to include public comment, perhaps take written and oral comments, and limit the time people can speak to ensure agenda stays on time.

All agree Public comment will be on the agenda going forward.

Agenda Item 6: Technical Team Working Groups

Tom gave a brief overview: the Technical Team has been meeting to determine what workgroups are needed. The purpose tonight is to introduce the ideas and direction for each workgroup.

Ramiro Chavez requests information from Sam Gibbony regarding the Port property: People have been living on Port property in Tumwater, and Tumwater requested a partnership with the Port to work together on solutions. They invited the Port to engage with the RHC and other groups working on siting. Port Commission have directed staff to look at port properties for potential mitigation sites. Many of the port properties have grant limitations on properties for non-residential use only. Question and answer follows.

Siting Committee: Keith Stahley is Chair. This Committee intends to come back to RHC with 3 – 5 sites identified by each jurisdiction to be potentially used for safe parking and mitigation, and long term sites for affordable housing. Discussion follows regarding how to identify sites: public owned, vacant building, private owned that could be purchased, land, all options.

The RHC have talked about having one councilperson or alternate on each Committee. Discussion follows. Michael will serve as liaison on siting.

Policy Committee (Common Understanding): Keylee Marineau is Chair. Working with jurisdictions on policy to make sure all are cohesive and using the same language. Also considering how the RHC works with other stakeholders in the County. Lenny volunteers as liaison for this Committee.

Relationships Workgroup (Tom Webster is Chair): This group will look at how the RHC interacts and shares information with other organizations that have knowledge or are impacted by the work of the RHC. Discussion follows regarding how the Communications team is working with this group. Carolyn offers to liaison for both the Relationships and the Communications groups.

Communications workgroup also met this week. Megan Porter will be the chair. They are serving on an as-needed basis.

Evictions Committee: Cary Retlin and Amy Buckler are co-chairs. Brad Medrud discussed the scope of the committee and requested direction from the RHC regarding goals and tasks for the Eviction group. Discussion follows regarding roles and relationships of RHC and workgroups, as well as objectives including Covid-19, and tenant protections. Liaison for eviction committee will be Jim Cooper.

Funding and RFP committee: Tom Webster is the Chair. Tom recommends that there be 2 electeds on this committee. Task for this group will include reviewing funding sources, funding priorities, and the RFP process. Jim Cooper adds that they do not want to have a quorum of primaries on this committee. Liaisons: Joan Cathey, John Hutchings, and JW Foster. Jim Cooper will ask Renata to serve as an alternate.

Agenda Item 7: 1406 Funding

Tom reviewed the previous discussion regarding use of 1406 funding this year, with a pooled 1406 fund in 2021, and jurisdictions using their 2020 funds individually this year. Everyone agrees, they will begin work on an ILA that will begin in January.

Good of the Order:

Angela Maki (from Providence): Providence wants to partner with jurisdictions on ending homelessness in our community. They are looking at working with a national non-profit, Community Solutions. Looking at short and long term plans, including adding housing over the next 3 – 5 years.

Meeting Adjourned: 6:25pm

Next Meeting: October 15, 5:00pm