

REGIONAL HOUSING COUNCIL

Wednesday October 12th, 2022 Meeting Minutes

ATTENDEES:

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

Tumwater: Michael Althaus, Joan Cathey, Brad Medrud

Olympia: Jim Cooper, Dani Madrone, Darian Lightfoot, Rich Hoy

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

Yelm: Brian Hess

Public: None

Meeting began at 4:00 pm.

Agenda Item 1: Agenda approved, motion and second

Agenda Item 2: Minutes from September 28th meeting, motion and second, approved.

Agenda Item 3: Camp Sweep Proposal

Keylee gave a summary of the proposal. This initiative was initiated by the Public Health Officer and Public Health director. Motivated by what happened during the Deschutes sweep, regarding some physical and mental health needs not being met during this sweep. The framework creates a task force from the public health perspective, to reduce harm and deaths during sweeps, and reduce jurisdictions frustrations. Jessica Olson drafted this proposal, utilizing US Intragency Council on Homelessness recommendations. Keylee gave an overview of the vision and the proposed structure, which is based on the structure of the hazardous weather task force. Keylee also reviewed highlights of the plan, including best practices, outreach, addressing basic needs, connecting people to community supports. The continuation of camp sweeps is expected, because there are not enough shelter and housing spaces for people in the County. Next steps include getting jurisdictional buy-in from RHC, and detailing how this would work going forward. It would be a commitment of time and staff.

County Manager gave an overview of the formation of the RHC, and identification of homelessness and housing being a regional issue. County Manager Chavez added that this must be a regional decision. Next steps would be for staff to bring more tangible steps for RHC to consider. County would like to know if this is something the RHC agrees with, and looking for regional support.

Councilmember Althaus commented he needs some time to process how this would work with City operations. Chair Cox agreed, they need time to discuss with jurisdiction staff and Council before moving on this. Councilmember Cooper agreed with Manager Chavez, this is the type of action they came together for, it does need to be a coordinated effort. Discussion follows regarding when to bring this back to RHC, contact Tom or Keylee with questions that arise from jurisdiction discussion.

Agenda Item 4: Right of Way Update

Tom gave an update, County Staff continues to meet with Commerce. Focus is now on the City Center area. County is negotiating the MOU with Lacey and Commerce regarding the acquisition of a hotel, target date is a November closing for the hotel. Franz Anderson is progressing, existing structures have been demolished, they are working on a contract with a consultant for design and layout. Unity Commons phase 2 is set to close in January and construction will start shortly after.

Agenda Item 5: RHC Governance

Tom gave an update, they have a draft charter for the Advisory Boards to discuss. Next step is to finalize the charter in November. The Olympia and County ILA is being drafted by attorneys, they are working to revise language and include reference between this ILA and the RHC ILA.

The draft charters for the advisory boards lay out board membership and advisory role to the RHC. Discussion included compensation for board members. Olympia board members have the option to receive a stipend. Tom gave an overview of the structure of the boards as written in the charter. Discussion follows regarding the stipend, board membership, including members who are residents of each jurisdiction. Questions for discussion include stipend, underrepresented groups that may have not been identified.

Discussion followed regarding what document (charter or ILA) should outline the process of recommendations from the Advisory Board being returned from the RHC for re-consideration, prior to RHC taking action that the advisory board did not recommend. Tom gave an overview of timing regarding the advisory boards and the upcoming RFP. Discussion follows regarding review team needs and gap of time before establishing the advisory board.

Agenda Item 6: ARPA Update

Chair Cox asks for a status update from each jurisdiction.

Lacey took an early position for each jurisdiction to put funds toward PSH regional projects. Once the ROW funds became available for a hotel, Lacey has brought a proposal forward for the ARPA funds to be used on another project.

County Manager Chavez added that County ARPA funds went into the purchase of Franz Anderson. Another \$3.5M of ARPA funds will go to Board of County Commissioners for approval for housing.

Councilmember Althaus added that Tumwater has approximately \$550,000 available for a regional housing project.

Councilmember Cooper gave an update for Olympia, still have funds committed for Franz Anderson, and was their understanding that all jurisdictions were going to contribute ARPA funds to Franz Anderson and other housing projects. They have \$2M still committed, and have spent \$5M of their \$9M on housing.

Councilmember Hess indicated he needs to get information from Yelm finance staff regarding their ARPA funds.

Darian added that for Franz Anderson to remain in the pipeline for the housing trust fund, ARPA funding still needs to be committed to this project as leverage. Staff is asking for direction to continue working on this project. Scott Spence added that they need some clarity on the Franz Anderson project.

Recommended the tech team work through details and clarify what the project entails and what is needed. Jacinda gave an overview of previous discussions regarding ARPA funds and proposed projects, and using ARPA funds for leverage. Please reach out to Jacinda or Darian to get more information.

Councilmember Madrone added that they initially spoke about using ARPA funds for something big to address housing. If the goal has changed they need to have that conversation. Keylee added that the Tech Team was directed to create the PSH framework, which was voted on and approved by the RHC.

Councilmember Cooper asked to see the Franz Anderson presentation at the next meeting, so everyone can understand the proposal.

Agenda Item 7: Good of the Order

None for time.

Meeting Adjourned: 5:06 pm

Next Meeting: October 26th, 4:00 pm