

# REGIONAL HOUSING COUNCIL

Wednesday January 25th, 2023 Meeting Minutes

## **ATTENDEES:**

Lacey: Carolyn Cox, Rick Walk, Ryan Andrews

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

Olympia: Dani Madrone, Clark Gilman, Rich Hoey, Darian Lightfoot, Jacinda Steltjes

Thurston County: Carolina Mejia, Ramiro Chavez, David Bayne, Tom Webster, Keylee Marineau

Meeting began at 4:00 pm.

**Agenda Item 1:** Agenda approved, motion and second

**Agenda Item 2:** Minutes from January 11th meeting, motion and second, approved.

**Agenda Item 3:** Public Comment

**Agenda Item 4:** Vote for Chair/Vice Chair

At this meeting the group voted for a Chair and Vice Chair. Both a city and county representative must take these positions. Carolina and Dani nominated Carolyn as Chair for the next year. The group voted in favor of Carolyn as Chair.

Carolyn nominated Carolina as Vice Chair, this was seconded by Michael and the group voted in favor of Carolina to continue to serve as Vice Chair for the next year.

**Agenda Item 5:** Southport Financial Project Proposal

Darian gave an update. Clarifications on providing a loan were given. The loan must be at a 1% interest with a term of 22 years. Payments will be made back yearly, at approximately \$26k per year. This breaks down to roughly \$13k paid back to the city and the other \$13k to the RHC. Possible funding options are the City Home Fund, County Home Fund, and 1406. Home ARP does not meet the requirements for this project. Since Olympia has already made their commitment, their funds can be utilized first giving the RHC until the end of 2024 to determine what funding source they want to utilize and if they want to move forward with a grant or loan. The group approved a motion to move forward providing a commitment letter for this project.

The group further discussed how they should approach projects that are presented outside of the normal funding cycle. It's important to the group to be able to remain flexible and be able to fund emergencies or great opportunities, but also ensure that groups aren't utilizing that process over the normal RFP process. Rick suggested having the tech team and new advisory boards work on creating additional policies for projects that come up out of the normal RFP cycle. The group agreed to this idea and look forward to their recommendations.

**Agenda Item 6: Funding Priorities/RFP – Approve/finalize priorities, set-asides, funding amounts, scoring criteria**

Tom updated the group on funding amounts. For capital affordable housing dollars, Federal HOME funding will remain similar at \$750,000. 2060 local document recording fees are at \$250,000 for a total of \$1,000,000. There are two projects currently in the pipeline for this funding, Yelm Longmire by Habitat for Humanity and Sequoia Landing by Housing Authority.

Homeless Services are estimating the following funding: CHG - \$600,000, HEN \$3,800,000, 2163 document recording fees \$1,500,000, Home Fund \$1,350,000, 1277 \$3,000,000 totaling roughly \$10,250,000 for homeless services which is a reduction from the last funding period.

For the Human Services fund, they are still in the process of revenue projection. However, they are projecting \$320,000 which is an increase from the last funding period.

Additionally, Tom is proposing set asides. These include: \$250,000 for Coordinated Entry, \$200,000 Housing Basic Needs, \$250,000 Cold and Hazardous Weather Shelter, \$25,000 Point-in-Time Count, \$200,000 for Emergency Funds, \$50,000 for the Lived Experience Steering Committee stipends, up to \$25,000 for Advisory Board stipends – these funds would come from the Olympia Home Fund, and up to \$60,000 for agency DEI trainings. These total roughly \$1,000,000 in set asides. Tom asked the group if they wanted to reduce any of these set aside amounts considering the reduced funding overall.

Clark asked about the \$400,000 vs \$250,000 for Cold and Hazardous Weather Shelter funding. Tom and Keylee explained that during last year's RFP they set aside \$400,000 for a single adult shelter that unfortunately didn't come to fruition and they are not anticipating a single adult provider to apply for those funds this year. Therefore, the \$250,000 is the typical amount set aside for warming centers and other hazardous weather resources.

Dani asked if the OlyMAP and ORCAA project was funding from this \$200,000 worth of Emergency funds. It was, using up about \$110,000 of these funds. Dani recommended that emergency funds be increased, but not reduced.

Tom moved forward asking for the RHC's approval of these funding recommendations. The group approved these funding recommendations.

Tom then presented the Scoring Criteria, which for the most part has not changed from the previous RFP period. One exception is an addition under the "Importance to the Community" section specifically for those applying to facilitate the Lived Experience Steering Committee. This criterion aims to identify applicants with a clear understanding and experience centering the voices of individuals with lived experience of homelessness. The RHC approved the Scoring Criteria to move forward.

Tom presented the Funding Priorities from the Homeless Housing Hub (HHH). These priorities included funding programs already in operation. Though, Tom did advise that because funding has been reduced this year, we won't be able to fund at the same level as previous years. The HHH's second priority was DEI training, which was included in the set aside funding this year. Their third priority wasn't funding related but to include bridging activities within the RFP to create a wider collaboration between providers within the system. The RHC also approved these recommendations to move forward.

All of these will now move to the BoCC for final approval before the RFP is issued. Tom hopes to issue the RFP on 2/24 with applications due 3/31.

#### **Agenda Item 7: RHC ILA**

Language around 1406 funds being required to go to each city council for approval has been removed in the latest amendment edit. Instead, language was added so that these funds can be treated like the HSF funds. Language was also added allowing jurisdictions to apply for 1406 funds for projects within their jurisdictions.

There was concern that there is no language within the ILA about representatives from each jurisdiction being on each Advisory Board. Tom, Keylee, and Darian explained that there is language within the charter about representation but having language within the ILA can be difficult because it is heavily dependent on who applies to be on the advisory boards, and where those applicants are from.

Tom asked that the RHC approve the ILA track changes to move this amendment forward for approval and signature. The group agreed to the track changes.

#### **Agenda Item 8: RHC Advisory Boards**

Keylee let the group know Advisory Board applications will be reviewed and scored by 2/8 so that interviews for recommended applicants can take place 2/8-2/10. There were 21 for the Homeless Services Advisory Board and 26 applicants for the Affordable Housing Advisory Board. Keylee and Jessica Olson will be facilitating and reviewing applicants for the Homeless Services Board. Tom, Darian, and Jacinda will be reviewing and facilitating the Affordable Housing Board. Brad Medrud will be reviewing all applications and providing feedback as well.

#### **Agenda Item 9: PIT**

The annual Point-in-Time census is required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to provide data on how many individuals are currently experiencing unsheltered homelessness, sheltered homelessness and how many individuals are living in transitional housing. The County is preparing to engage individuals in a survey count. They have planned activities, food, and are offering survival supplies to encourage individuals to take surveys. This year they are also offering laundry services, which is a new activity that they hope will encourage individuals to participate. OlyMAP will also be calling individuals through the Coordinated Entry list to try and conduct surveys over the phone.

#### **Agenda Item 10: ROW Update**

The sale of the Days Inn is anticipated to close this Friday, 1/27. Outreach continues but movement off encampments remains slow. Franz Anderson continues to move forward preparing for the tiny home village.

#### **Agenda Item 11: Good of the Order**

Dani requested that the agenda be sent out earlier in the week.

Carolyn asked the group to consider returning to in-person meetings. It was agreed that in-person would be beneficial but to wait until after the legislative session. Andy also suggested that the group possibly

move to one meeting a month or at least one meeting remain a hybrid model. Carolyn asked the Tech Team to work on options for in-person meetings.

**Meeting Adjourned:** 5:45pm

**Next Meeting:** February 15th, 4:00 pm