

# REGIONAL HOUSING COUNCIL

Thursday December 17, 2020 Meeting Minutes

## **ATTENDEES:**

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

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

Olympia: Jim Cooper, Keith Stahley, Cary Retlin

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

South County: JW Foster

Public: No speakers

Meeting began at 4:30 pm.

**Agenda Item 1:** Agenda approved

**Agenda Item 2:** Public Comment, none

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

## **Agenda Item 4: Status of RHC Interlocal Agreement (ILA)**

Tom gave an update: The City of Rainier has declined to sign, staff is ready to proceed with signatures. Lacey and Tumwater will re-approve the ILA in early January. Staff will gather signatures in January.

Brad gave an update on the 1406 ILA: Staff has completed review, now goes to each jurisdiction for legal review.

## **Agenda Item 5: Safe Parking**

Tom gave an update: Meetings between the County and City of Olympia, site visit at Carpenter Way, and preliminary site planning. Looking at space for 40 vehicles, over two lots, one lot for cars and one for RVs. Site will also need fencing and portable toilets.

Keith added: Have met with County permitting team, working on completing a temporary use permit. Permanent sewer isn't necessary for the site, but they would need portable toilets and a portable water service, as well as safety lighting. Cost estimates are not yet ready, looking to get grading and lighting estimates. Local fire departments are reviewing plans, and they will need input from Law Enforcement. Have been talking to Catholic Community Services about providing management on site.

Questions: John asked if there will be room for any expansion, and also what discussion has taken place with law enforcement (LE)? Answer: Preliminary site assessment will determine how many RVs and cars can fit, unlikely there will be additional space to expand. Also, this site is designated for future conversion to solid waste transfer site, approximately 3 years from now, so safe parking is a temporary use only. Have not had outreach with LE yet. Keylee added that at yesterday's tech team meeting they discussed that a next step is to get Sheriff's Office (SO) and other LE at upcoming meetings. John asked

how soon could they get people in, Keith thinks if everything keeps moving then possibly March. City is taking lead on Capital, and County is taking lead on operations, for a 6-month trial period. Lenny adds that he is concerned that this has moved forward without information to Lacey. He has spoken to SO, they do not have the manpower to handle this site, so Lacey PD will have to cover response. Question: Is there a plan for food service? Not discussed with Community Kitchen yet. Question: what is the Communication strategy, Lacey residents have said they do not want safe parking at this site, so will there be outreach to local Community to discuss? There will be outreach efforts. Lenny adds that if the plan is to have people there in March, then outreach would need to happen now. Question: where will other funds come from? Keith adds that the preliminary budget for 6 months is addressed. Lenny adds that this is a lot of funds for 6 months, Keylee adds that it costs roughly \$600K to \$800K a year to operate a shelter. Jim addressed the communications question, related to the Martin Way project Meg and Keylee developed best practices for neighborhood committee development, and addressing community concerns. Scott asks to include Lacey PD in their discussion. Carolyn adds that there was an article in The Olympian about this project, urge that as soon as they have enough info to answer public questions, they should begin outreach.

Jim asks for RHC approval to keep moving forward, RHC approves. Added that outreach and LE component are very important.

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

Siting Committee, Keith: have been working on GIS coordination, the result of this work will be a robust GIS tool. Right now the focus is on the 100 most viable sites for low income and /or supportive housing in the County. All jurisdictions have been working on this.

Policy Team: Relationship group, Tom: After the November RHC meeting, staff sent out a Relationship document that was developed with stakeholders in the community. Staff is asking for feedback from the RHC on this document. Document identifies and includes jurisdictional partners, the Housing Action Team and HAT subgroups, Homeless Crisis Response team, communication between partners, no duplication of efforts across partners. Tom gave a brief overview of the Relationship document, including relationship with Thurston Thrives, and how partners connect through the RHC technical groups. Staff is looking for feedback and suggestions on this document.

Comments: Carolyn commends staff and the document. Question about calling out/adding private and non-profit developers or property managers, and Tribes as potential partners.

If RHC members have any comments, please send to Tom by the end of December. A final draft will be brought back in January, then the document will be posted to RHC website. Idea of an annual summit with stakeholders is discussed.

Eviction Team, Cary: Both Olympia and Tumwater are working on hosting renter protection meetings, and engaging stakeholders in the discussion. ERAP has paid \$2.6M to 693 households. Have hit some demographic targets but are behind on People of Color target. Olympia and Lacey residents are highest demand group. The Governor's budget includes \$160M for rent assistance. Housing Trust Fund now includes funds to acquire hotels/motels for conversion to housing units. Eviction group meets the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month. Michael adds that the Governor's budget is actually double that estimate, for 2

years of funding. Tom adds that CAC has spent out nearly all funds, and have started a wait list, people can continue to apply and when more funding is available they will continue program.

Funding and RFP team: No update

#### **Agenda Item 8: Public Comment Continued**

None

#### **Agenda Item 9: Good of the Order**

Keith added that construction of Microhouses begins tomorrow.

JW came from south sound council CTE meeting, has a food service program, perhaps they could help with safe parking food service.

Joan wants to recognize John, Jim adds they are recognizing John's service to the Community. Thank you to John, with him the RHC wouldn't be where it is. John thanks everyone for all they have contributed. Multiple members commend John for work and his service. JW adds that no Commissioners have done the job better.

Jim encourages everyone to let Tom and Keylee know who the RHC members and alternates will be before next meeting.

#### **Agenda Item 10: Upcoming Meetings**

Meeting Adjourned: 6:00 pm

Next Meeting: January 21, 2021, 4:30 pm