

DRAFT Minutes

Homelessness Task Force October 7, 2019

Will Eberle, not present
Zach Hughes, not present
Glen Coburn Hutcheson, present
Erika Reil, present
Travis Hill, present
Stephen Whitaker, present
Dawn Little, present
Jodi Kelly, present
Ken Russell, present

Cameron Niedermeyer, present – New Assistant City Manager, third day on the job.

Guests

Rick DeAngelis, Board of Good Samaritan Haven and Another Way
Diane Richardson, Bethany Shelter
Mary Alice Bisbee, Inferfaith Action
Two unidentified members of the public

Tom Brown, The Bridge

Agenda

Agenda approved by show of hands.

No Public Remarks

Wednesdays 11:30-1 new weekly meeting time, Starting Wednesday, October 16

Urgent Business

Ericka Reil reported on phone call with Rob Farrell of Good Samaritan.

Rick DeAngelis responded to request from City Council, and stated: “we’re looking at opening early.”

Three elements:

1. Staffing – we’re not there yet. Encourage folks to apply \$15/hour.
 - Exploring use of volunteers.
 - Four nights a week covered.
 - Can be a grueling shift.
2. Participation of Churches
 - Rob is working on that, seeking commitments
3. Another Way
 - Extended their hours until shelter opened, and full-time on the weekend
 - A negotiation with them, and we pay for those hours
 - Rob is Meeting with Suni

If we have staffing and volunteers, go to council, and see if they approve of going forward without churches.

Regarding Good Samaritan attendance. Rob unable to make Wednesday time. Rick will have a presence.

Travis is able to help with shelter staffing.

Diane reports on Bethany Shelter Committee, Rob was there, they gave it a go, MOUs being worked out.

Stephen asks about having a plan B, involving another group running shelter to help it open early.

Cameron: relationship with Red Cross?

Rick: trend towards paid staff. Glen will look into volunteers.

We have an obligation to review anyone – paid or volunteer – who wants to work.

Travis: concern about Red Cross volunteers not being from this community.

Outreach to Police

Ken and Dawn reported. Will Eberle was also present. Chief not interested in doing anything that would create a permanent encampment.

Practice: if people aren't bothering others, police tend not to bother them.

An ongoing discussion, but the bigger issues are housing.

Steve wants City Council to direct the PD to create encampment areas that are "hassle free."

The Committee was asked to respond to this answer:

- Travis had some ideas about putting the locker in public property- doesn't need a special home
- Issues for bathroom use on the private/public property
- Dawn- I am concerned about people wanting to camp in areas- and creating unsafe spaces
- Cameron:
 - This Task Force needs to focus on its Priorities
 - Maybe look at lowering barriers for sheltering – if the end goal is to get people off the street
 - Look at what other Church requests we need to get moving to open the shelter early? (warming shelters)
 - Working with our agencies not against them
- Dawn-
 - I see the police who knows where folks are camping
 - Barriers lowered to the warming spaces- sounds good- but I'm here to advocate for folks who are traumatized and would be affected by that the most- lowering barriers in the overnight shelter would be too much and might create unsafe spaces
- Ericka-
 - I'm also not seeing those being harassed by police
- Ken-

- There are concerns and the challenges are real. People are looking for concrete solutions.
- Steve- I am hearing people getting hassled

Safe Storage

Mary Alice: safe storage, Senior Center, has lockers, possibly might be available.

Need storage for people who are outside who need storage.

Bethany does not have the storage space.

Need to find a place.

Dawn and Rick to explore.

Cameron could make request to Jana, Director of the Senior Center.

Row of lockers. In a well-lit, safe place.

Other Issues

Comes down to a bathroom.

Use of Bethany Shower during the day? 9 AM-8 PM.

Lowering barriers on shelter, in warming spaces.

If you lower barriers, difficult on staff and on host organizations.

Open shelter early, and what happens to people who don't get into shelters.

Bathrooms:

- Ken and Steve discussed this
 - Ken spoke to Bill about this- has security questions and who ends up in the bathroom.
 - Bill asked for the Committee to come up with a concrete proposal
- Dawn- would it make sense to look at another location than the city, since there is a 24 hour bathrooms in the police department?
- Steve- Cumberland Farms is too far away. Other locations discussed:
 - The transit center
 - The bathroom thing is not just a homelessness issue, it's for everyone
 - Steve- Wants the City bathrooms to be added as 24hour access spots.
 - Steve- Said he spoke to the public works director?
- **Glen said that he will bring up the issue regarding City bathrooms for this week's council meeting**

Next Steps Discussion:

- Steve- What is the police's authority to ask people to move along on the public property? What is their authority over private property when there has not been any trespassing orders issued?
- Ken- I want to give Council a space to hear this, and that give people time to process this and move it forward. I see Dawn having an executive session with Council to discuss these issues
- Glen- I think it would be a good use of this Task Force's time- at the next meeting to ID specifically some small city owned parcels to come up with a proposal to give to Council- and a proposal for policy around their use
- Dianne (Bethany Church)- I don't know about public property- but I know of two trespassing orders issued by the church against homeless folk- this has to do with why police are moving folks on
- Jodi- we need to prepare for the Council meeting, and give it our best shot- and we need to chip away at this

- Travis- I thought this committee would be to come up with very short term efforts and then look at long term strategic plans
- Ken- I think that now the PD is on notice that we are looking into their enforcement
- Steve- Has read over the MOU (between Good Sam and Bethany Church- No City involvement)
 - Has issues with the search clause
- Dawn- I see the bathroom issue as separate than camping

Any preparation regarding Wednesday Night's Council Item?

- Ken- I don't think there is anything we should do at the meeting. I think that the real conversation is between Bethany Church and Good Sam.
 - I think that a more thoughtful, larger proposal will be better- more concrete ideas
- Glen- I think we are ready for Wednesday- but I would love folks to be there if any questions come up
- Steve- I want to see the MOUs?
 - Rick- I think you are trying to create an enforcement group with this Task Force, and I am not okay with this
- Travis- I thought this committee would be to come up with very short term efforts and then look at long term strategic plans

Ken- Did not circulate the minutes from last week- so we cannot approve it. He will send it out before the next meeting.