

Minutes

Housing Task Force

November 7, 2019

Final Version as Approved November 13, 2019

Members Present

Rick DeAngelis

Morgan Brown

Jodi Kelly

Cameron Niedermeyer

Glen Coburn Hutcheson

Ken Russell

Yvonne Byrd

Zachary

Guests

Troll, lives on the streets of Montpelier

Tammy

Matthew Nunnely

Sunny

Dan Thierault, Goddard Student

Mary Alice Bisbee

Agenda

Agenda approved

Minutes

Minutes approved

Lockers

Cameron: lockers remain an interesting ask, or lift. 6 lockers. Biggest issue is lack of locks.

Issue of where to put them.

Permitting challenges downtown due to historic district

ADA issues, not super accessible.

Jodi brought it up to business community

Allison of National Life, interested in installing community cupboard

Managed by National Life employees, make sure it is stocked

Location: maybe Recreation Center or Senior Center

Only accessible place currently is Police Department

New Transit Center: run and leased by GMT

Cameron meeting with them on 11/15

Dawn: placement there is most accessible for homeless population

Sunny: Another Way, would have to be under the porch

Rick: if there's a shortage, that

Accessibility and availability during non-open hours

Talk of having multiple locations

Rick: under porch at AW not ideal but maybe a good thing to try this year

Accessibility

Sheriff's Department? Cameron to go talk to them.

Maybe Sheriffs could build a sheltered spot

Dawn: in long term, a place to keep valuables, immediate need is for sleeping bag.

Signage to explain what level of security to expect.

1. Need Locks

2. Location

Glen: Senior Center lockers were a lucky find.

So how about we use these 6 lockers at Police Department now

Dawn: as long as first step, sure.

Meeting, November 20, 5 PM Vermont Interfaith, St. Augustine's, usual warming night,

MBA interested in finding a solution. Local, visible, not become an eyesore.

Cameron: Community Outreach event. Should be a strong part of our report.

Needs: coats, socks

Vermont Interfaith, solving homelessness by 2020. Focus is to get legislature to pass vouchers.

Another Way is willing to take some of the lockers.

Workday to build lockers

Ken to list on Front Porch Forum and Craigslist

Front Porch Forum

Craig's List

Cost of materials and get materials order

Churches

Businesses

Jodi willing to host a fundraiser, dinner auction

Jodi: Friend is director of operations at The Wilder Haven

Visit with solutions

Lunch Meeting with Service Providers

To agree on protocol for listing individuals

20 respondents so far

Next Tuesday, November 12. Noon. Garage Cultural Center.

Review of Will Eberle's proposal

Cameron: a lot of our work has been ground-level

This does not represent what we have done

Not an appetite in current budget cycle

Round of HTF Members. What would you like to see in the initial report?

Glen: Any report will be necessarily preliminary, not that we are ready to HTF

Here's what we've done so far, here's what we'd like to do, and we'd like to continue.

Useful: does attempt to articulate scope of the problem, with numbers.

If we wanted to address this, this is the sort of thing we'd like to do.

Even if not a budget ask or budget ask. This is what we think it might take.

Where are the gaps, that can be addressed.

Cameron: Careful how we present the information, so that

What we're working on now

Mid-level

Rick: an initial preliminary report. Short term strategies, the shelters, the bathrooms, lockers, counting people.

Second focus: we believe we need to continue to work for at least a year. Continue to look at a complex issue that is a problem.

How is the system we have here working? How is it going to work this Winter? Where were the gaps. A qualitative assessment.

Other long term policies that the city can realistically undertake.

Has had pretty good progressive policies to support affordable housing

To include people with the greatest needs.

Regarding Will's proposal:

Likes item 7. 8 and 9 unrealistic.

Lots not in domain of city.

Jodi: Like other comments. Like ideas of monitoring how things have gone over the winter. How to pull community together. Fundraisers and generous people.

Zach: like the idea of us staying together.

Agree with Rick that #8, Rental Subsidy, is not realistic for city to do

Dawn: Agree with what Cameron said about tone of presentation and how it is framed.

We are aware of bigger picture and more acute needs.

Draft is good because it begins the discussion.

We are working on things at the ground level. We don't have the budget but we may have a perspective that the state doesn't have.

Echo doing outreach to community

Morgan: in general terms I like Cameron's framework, I like the "asks" that Rick mentioned. Let us continue our work for at least a year.

Review the system, the network of emergency (response)

Morgan: let's ask now for progressive housing policies

Regarding #8: if we can do Housing Trust Fund, it doesn't exclude doing something

Some kind of fund or subsidy especially

If Montpelier could pony up something and that would make the difference

Mary Alice, as member of the Housing Task Force:

Vermont Interfaith Action Statewood church-based group.

Working with private sector to achieve affordable housing

Recommend attendance at Housing Task Force

Other suggestions:

Working regional. End homelessness in Washington County.

Aware of budget troubles

Work with AmeriCorps volunteers

Work with rest of the state.

Go to legislature
That's where the money is

Cameron to work on a draft, bulleted-report.

Work on report to be done within the committee.

Community members want to help.

In terms of urgency:

Dawn: evening warming spaces, available for guests at Bethany or for other people?

Talk to Good Sam, or Rick, or individual sites

Rick can find list of contact people, and will ask Rob.

We need to know who is excluded from AW or Bethany, to know who are not able to access existing space. And what happens?

Betsy Parah, Bethany Shelter Community:

What is the question:

Regarding the evening warming spaces, open to anyone outside or only to overnight guests at Bethany.

How many people are excluded from Bethany? Just a number.

Re: Is Bethany a low barrier shelter?

Rick: Bethany is a low-barrier shelter.

Dawn: by other definitions they are not a low-barrier shelter.

Bob Therrault: Committee to review decisions for folks to be banned from a shelter.

Who is responsible for that action

AW has a long history, and have guidelines.

Final say is the director

Bethany process: looks like it comes from one person

Review of Proposed Agenda for Next Time – Yvonne

#10. Regarding potential funds.

Glenn: frame it: What city has done is a good start,

A good hook for some kind of request of city council

With understanding that it's not a guarantee

Especially if we come up with something scaled to ca. \$5000.

This specific thing that would be small but really helpful

That would be a good angle.

Around the table regarding #10 and Glenn's framing.

Morgan: Maybe piece towards locker

Dawn: In addition, people who are not able to utilized other services have some place to stay warm.

Zach: same preference for priority. In a targeted manner so staying on focus. Grateful we were able to open the overflow early. As a community, though we are technically just an advisory committee, We are going places.

Jodi: Would be great if Dawn were able to give a voucher, for a hotel room, laundry (for a dry sleeping bag). It's a time of giving.

Glenn: extend shelter 2 weeks in the spring

Rick: extend shelter in the spring.

Dawn: even if 50%

Cam: agree with shelter extension

Ken: agree shelter extension should be in there, but also a targeted, tactical list.

Adjourn.