

DRAFT

Homelessness Task Force Meeting Minutes December 18, 2019

Members Present

Dawn Little
Morgan Brown
Will Eberle
Rick DeAngelis
Ericka Reil
Jodi Yvonne
Ken Russell, minute taker
Zach Hughes

Cameron Niedermeyer
Yvonne Bird

Guests

Betsy Parrah
Nancy

Agenda Approval

Agenda Approved

Public Comment

Nancy Reed, working with Kathy Suskin and Joseph Kiefer, shares the document collation of Food Justice Group spreadsheets
Betsy reports briefly on successful week at Bethany

Procedural

Rick

Rick asks for consideration of the two proposals he forwarded via Ken to the committee recently. Cameron notes this for further discussion at an upcoming meeting.

1. Recommend adding language to the City Plan about the City's commitment to alleviate and end homelessness in the City
2. Recommend that the Housing Trust Fund include a priority for affordable housing projects that directly address the housing needs of those who or

homeless or other very low-income households with specialized housing needs

Approval of Minutes from 12/11

Group approves

Will and Dawn abstain

Procedural

Rick would like a chair of HTF, someone with big picture

Would like to meet every two weeks

Jodi, some discussion needed about

Yvonne: roles:

holding responsibility,

facilitating meetings

Minute taker

Ken:

Roles aligned with our charge which is of larger community, not just of city staff, city council, but of larger community

Specific suggestions:

Dawn: haven't thought about chair issue, I do like meeting weekly. We do get a lot done.

Facilitator, does that role impair ability to participate?

Morgan: good time to consider this, think we should elect a chair, go for chair model, in my mind, Chair becomes the Facilitator. Someone in that role can participate. Would like to see Cameron's role continue. I think we should consider this matter next year. First meeting 1/8
Would like us, for now, to continue to meet every week, at least until shelter closes. Until we get our issues solved.

Will: concern about duplication of efforts with other groups. Difficult to have Continuum of Care, CoC. Maybe official Montpelier representative of CoC. How to combine resource in a strategic way.

Homelessness Gaps Collaborative.

Maybe networking wouldn't need to happen if we had one regional group.

We adjust our charter to be synchronistic with other efforts: Gaps group.

2nd Monday of every month 11:30-12:30 after CoC.

We have to think about what our goals are. Limited need of dollars

Yvonne: this can be talked about in networking part of agenda. Will agrees to move in.

Zack: Earlier we had thought we could all participate. Have seen a couple of people who have taking on leadership roles informally. I don't think it's appropriate to have city staff facilitate. As long as there are issues to be addressed, I would support weekly meetings. Don't believe committee should disband. I believe we could send members to these groups. I see a purpose in Montpelier. I can identify two people as chair.

Rick: I like chair as facilitator. I just can't make it every week.

Ericka: I support weekly. Support chair model. Always great to have city employee, to get feedback on what can and cannot be done within city limits.

Cameron: the ability to post the agendas, help you form the agenda, if assisting the chair, that's what I'm here to do, or to remind chair to stick to agenda. I'm 100% behind any decision you all make. If go with chair will have to take on other things such as formality. I like meeting every other week after shelter closes. City is busier in the Summer.

Jodi: I agree about chair model, would work well. I also have ideas about who. I worry about bigger picture if we disband. Should continue to meet weekly. Presence at these other meetings is a great idea. Some of us can do this every month, but not the same people.

Yvonne: seems that all of us, pretty much, are in favor of weekly, given amount we have to work on.

Morgan: think we should discuss chair in new year.
If all those other groups were doing what they said they were doing, we wouldn't need this group. I don't see other groups making it possible for us to disband.

Now a scheduling conflict with new schedule with CoC and Coordinated Entry.

Can we all agree to put off chair decision until 1/8. All agree.

Yvonne leaves.

9. Networking

Nancy Reed, Food Pantry, create meal kits, deliver snacks to shelters
Think about our different roles
We had a conference in the fall

Create a document with the end user in mind
Not complete, not intended to be complete

Ken will forward corrections to Nancy
Need to process information in a systematic way
Needs to be fluid
Has to be electronic
Google doc.
Keep it updated

How do we get it to an end user?

To facilities or to us.

Zack: Survivor's Guide

Nancy: can distribute this with Survivor's Guide

Survivor's Guide is weatherproof, and a basic level
Where can I eat, and where can I get warm

Will: Barre/Montpelier coordination

Feedback on making this list usable.

Jodi can create smaller version per the input of Dawn and others

Will: combine with Barre.

Sometimes have access of online. Little laminated sheets.

Morgan: Washington County Survivor's Guide is very important. I was invited many years ago by Mary Moulton to be part of the process of putting that guide together.
Would like to see Washington County document updated.
Only as good as the resources available.

Will

Meetings and what time we meet
Attempt to wrangle into one meeting

Second Monday

Continuum of Care

10-11:30

Gaps

Second Monday 11:30-12:30 at Capstone, 20 Gable in Barre

Barre Interfaith Group

Aldrich 10-2 on January 2

CoC Gaps

Case Management, Coordinated Entry
Wed. 10-12 at MacFarland Building

Coordinate with municipal efforts
Rick: we have a homelessness problem that transcends city lines

Look towards having outreach position jointly-funded by other cities.

Chad Bessette already doing this in Berlin.

Presentation to Council

Who's coming tonight.
Jodi and Ken.
Ken to present.
Dawn will go to answer questions.

Morgan, there's a cost to not doing these asks. Financial and human costs.
Recurring costs.

Dawn: Not just bureaucratic barriers.
Dawn you should extrapolate on this.

Cameron looking at our proposal:
Emergency needs, right now: lockers, shipping
Building a shelter to protect them.

Bathrooms to be placed in useful places to the population.
Best part of it is that the company maintains the porta-johns
Concern about what happens inside the johns.

\$3750/year

Trash?
Cameron: DPW contract for someone to clean

21 Funding Asks

Bathrooms
Shelter Extension, Community Approach, not an emergency every time

Asking for all of this because we believe this is what it takes but we know you can look at individual parts.

Can we amend our requests in 2021?

Cameron explains timeline of budget process and fiscal year.

This is our shot to get money in next year's budget

Budget gets approved end of January, voted on in March

Gap in service fund. General responsiveness fund.

Dawn: is this a conflict of interest for me to present?

Group says no, and you're the subject matter expert.

Will this conflict with Community Fund Process?

Why this needs to be independent.

%5 k doesn't touch this.

Rick: Item 2 Continued funding in the shelter. Nothing certain but good to have money in budget.

Lockers

Jodi found lockers.

Public Property

Second agenda item next time

Policy for money donated

Chair discussion

Liaisons to other meetings

Accessibility: no parking anytime on School Street, no parking at back of Bethany

Keron, a diagram

Rick to talk to Rob about the issue.