

Homelessness Task Force Minutes

January 22, 2020

DRAFT

Members Present

Glen Hutcheson

Ericka Reil

Will Eberle

Jodi Kelley

Dawn Little

Ken Russell

Guests Present

Diane Richardson

Matthew Nunnelley

Sunny Leporati

Sally DeCicco

1. Introductions
 - i. Ken, Glen, Jodi, Cameron, Ericka, Will
 - ii. Public: Diane Richardson, Matthew Nunnally, Sunny (Another Way), Sally Desico? (from Bethany Church)
 1. Bethany would still like someone to assist in clean up when the shelter closes
 1. Friday Morning would be ideal (every Friday morning): Any time after the shelter folks leave
 - a. (between 8:30- 11am) or afternoon after meetings
 - b. Email Sally for information
2. Review and approve agenda
 - 1 Will motion/Glen seconded- approve with additional addition around email communication
3. Public Comment
 - i. No public comments at this time
4. Minutes
 - i. Review and approve Minutes from prior meeting(s):
 1. December 18th, 2020 minutes
 1. Changing Kelly's Last name
 2. Approve minutes as amended: Glen moved, Will Second- Passed 11:36
 2. January 8, 2020 minutes
 1. Change: Dawn amended her statement- Another Way HAS provided services to those were banned (page 5 on notes)

2. Will motioned, Jodi Seconded- passed 11:38

5. Ongoing Issues & Updates

- i. Edit- Add email communication
- ii. Updates from Council Meeting(s), as needed
 - 1. January 8th, 2020 meeting
 - 2. January 15th, 2020 meeting
 - 3. Budget Discussion:
 - 1. Ken floated a recommended price breakdown
 - 2. Wants to not make a decision today
 - 3. Cameron- I like Scenario A, propose cutting the Shelter extension fund and add to the Street Outreach fund? Council's priorities were not around sheltering
 - 4. Glen- Good Sam did not apply for Community Fund money, but we can still use that money to support any shelter that is open in the community. The way I understood Council's take, is they can be flexible with the money- if the money is available in FY21, we can be flexible about its use
 - 5. Ericka- we do want there to be a 'doomsday' option
 - 6. Will- the 'discretionary fund' with the Street Outreach is important? There are a population of long-term homeless here, and the street outreach is the best option to connect folks to people
 - a. Will- I think the most critical pieces are the Street Outreach and the Incidentals
 - 7. Ericka- cutting out the responsiveness fund and then asking the street outreach position to look for grants to cover it?
 - 8. Glen- what is the difference between Responsiveness Fund and Incidentals
 - a. RF- Long Term projects and matching funds
 - b. And the incidentals- more like sleeping bags etc.
 - 9. Jodi- I think we have to have funds for monitoring bathrooms more often and the ask would need to include more consistent cleaning/etc.
 - 10. Cameron brought up the fact we have 2 budget asks- one for FY20 and FY21
- iii. Camping – public property identified
 - 1. No change, we just ID'd City-owned property that relates to the camping supreme court
 - 1. Ken discussed a policy from Burlington- "safe camping"
 - 2. Cameron- I can bring the draft policy to the TF for review in 2 meetings
 - 2. Public Comment: Diane- some folks have been using the staircase at the Bethany Shelter as a bathroom
 - 3. Public Comment Dianne- I see why folks don't want designated camping sites, but I could see that the parks director could confidentially communicate with campers?
 - 4. Ken- I think we can be a huge help (as the HTF) to address some of these issues
- iv. Issues with transportation-getting people to shelter
 - 1. Ericka- we have issues getting folks from food services back to Good Sam
 - 1. Will- our discretionary funds are gone for the FY year
 - a. Glen- when does it start again? Will- probably August
 - 2. Will- discussed 211 getting hotel vouchers? And that most of them Are in Barre?

- a. Will- I'd like to discuss that with 211 directly
 - b. Will can connect directly with 211 to invite them to one of our meetings?
 - i. Also heard that there is a long wait time for 211 (4-8 hours)
 - ii. Difference guidance on addressing this (data etc.?)
 3. Ken- I did some follow up, a lot of businesses are private, and can decide who they want to serve or not.
- v. Permanent Housing
 1. Ken- Cameron and I attended the Housing Task Force and they have been working on housing for years . They are working on getting grants to move Montpelier forward working on Accessory Dwellings (Small houses etc.)
 2. Ken- maybe this should be on our plate just as advocacy, not directly
 3. Will- I think it should be included in our plans, where we make long-term goals then hand off that recommendation to the other committees
 1. Will- Recommendation should have other housing initiatives plans
 - a. COC and the Accountable Community for Health (THRIVE) and the Affordable Housing Coalition
 4. Glen- I think we should ask folks to work in a direction where there is the most need. Like, start with those who have no housing and then move them in that direction.
 5. Jodi- how do we track that? How do we follow up to make sure they are doing their jobs?
 1. Ken- I think we should just attend their meetings
 2. Ericka- What if we are spread too thin? What if we can't attend, we are so meeting heavy?
 3. Jodi- I just don't want people to feel like they HAVE to be a liaison, I am very busy etc.
 4. Glen- I think that the City Council's representative for the Housing Task Force and the HTF Should be the same person. Once I step down- etc.
- vi. Good Sam Overflow-Shelter location options and discussion
 1. Rick DeAngelis is now the Executive Director of Good Samaritan (on a 2 year basis)
 2. Ken is going to talk to Amy Pitton today
 1. Discussed how the shelter location (Bethany) has communicated that they may not want to host the shelter next year
 3. Public Comments: Dianne Richardson
 - Bathrooms- Discourages those in Bethany to be willing to provide this service.
 - Saying they want permanent shelter or something to replace the shelter at Bethany church and then they will stay open?
 - Saying that the shelter needs to be replaced, and that if it doesn't happen, that's not something they want to continue
 - Says street outreach will be very important
 - Wants Dawn to be more involved in the church
 - Discussion around bathroom access and our ask to Council
 - Can we communicate with Rick- that Dawn has access to the shelter as much as possible? And make them aware that it's a huge pressure point for the church
 - DownStreet wanted us to look into those portable bathrooms on trucks (shower and bathroom)

- Ericka- wants to check this for accessibility

- 6. Policy for spending money donated to support immediate urgent needs and street outreach
 - i. Advertising
 - ii. Donations/Incidental Funds
 - 1. There is a job to take this from the minutes and create a proposed policy to share with the HTF for review
 - 2. Ericka- there wasn't a lot. There were 2 different policies used as Benchmarked- Neither of them fit our circumstances.
 - 3. WE can coordinate with Yvonne to see how to best word it
 - 4. GLEN will draft something up regarding this

- 7. Networking
 - i. Volunteers from the Task Force to attend other agency meetings
 - 1. Ericka- what if we get a list of meetings around Housing in Washington County? We should prioritize these
 - ii. Conversation also discussed Capacity and getting Council recommendations.
 - iii. Ken- if it is in your bandwidth- go to what you can
 - 1. Ken attended Continuum of Care meeting
 - 2. Ericka goes to the Barre Interfaith Group
 - iv. Will sent out a past email with as much notes as possible on meeting dates/times
 - v. Businesses Association:
 - 1. Jodi- There are issues that I need to present to you, looking at this from a different way (from business perspectives)
 - 2. Jodi may also be interested in talking to that group about changing representation
 - vi. Will- I think we've created a great focus on Municipal Networking
 - 1. Push this to elected officials
 - vii. Will, Glen, and Ericka will do some appeals to some local Washington County Select Boards/Elected Officials
 - viii. Glen discussed not being a member of this committee come March (post-election)
 - ix. Legislative
 - 1. Discussed Proposed Montpelier Legislative Agenda-
 - 1. Include "Housing and Services" into the legislative agenda #5
 - 2. Discussed upcoming Legislative Days
 - 1. Ken will share the dates/of these
 - 3. Will- Can we get minutes from these meetings and then share them?
 - x. Cameron read the letter from Corporal Mike Philbrick (MPD) on behalf of the Complete Streets Committee
 - 1. City Staff is aware of this issue and is also working to address it

- 8. Next steps
 - i. Set agenda for next meeting.
 - ii. Potential Topics:
 - 1. Budget Decision
 - 2. Street Outreach Position Guidelines and "Hosting"
 - 3. Food Systems folks to present

4. Jodi to present as the liaison for the Business Association
 - iii. 2 weeks:
 1. Bringing City Policy Draft for Camping in the park to HTF- in 2 weeks
 2. Jodi to present as the liaison for the Business Association
9. Adjourn
 - i. Review action items – who, what, by when?
 - ii. Motion to Adjourn - Will,
 - iii. Ken adjourned 1:02pm