

Downtown Homeless Solutions Task Force

Meeting Agenda #2 – Put Yourself in Their Shoes

Tuesday, March 6, 2018, 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Salem City Library, Anderson A, 585 Liberty St SE

Action Agenda/Minutes complements the meeting audio recording attached to the online Minutes.

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Audio: 00:00:15

CALL TO ORDER: 6:05 p.m.

Welcome and Introductions

(Hr. Min. Sec)

ROLL CALL: Councilors Cara Kaser-Chair (Ward 1), Tom Anderson-Ward 2 (for Councilor Lewis); and Matthew Ausec (Ward 5); Al Tandy-Salem Summit, Brad Compton-Pioneer Trust Bank, Dana Vugteveen-Salem Center Mall, Evan Delgado-Governor's Cup, Gayle Doty-Building Owner, Irene Bernards-Travel Salem, Jon Reeves-MWVCAA, Neal Kern-CANDO, Paul Logan-NW Human Services, Sandy Powell-Olivia's, Shannon Garcia-Oregon Law Center, Steven Hill-Union Gospel Mission, Trevor Phillips-Salem Hospital.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jim Lewis-Councilor, Angie Onyewuchi, Jason Myers, Christy Wood

STAFF: Kristin Retherford and Sheri Wahrgren-UD, Dan Atchison-Legal, Mark Becktel-PW, Brady Rogers-CD, Andy Wilch-Salem Housing Authority, Ali – COG, **Treven Upkes-SPD**

GUESTS: Kenneth Houghton-Community Action, ARCHES, Homeless Veteran Outreach; Dave West; Darren Tunnell-Allied Universal; T.J. Putman-Family Promise; Ashley Marshall-Marion County; Pat Donenfeld; Jeanine Knight-Union Gospel Mission; Victoria Kelly and Brandelynn Heath-Project Able; Richelle Hiers; Mark Knecht-Veteran Advocate; Josh Lair, Matt Maceira and Gary Schreck -Be Bold Street Ministries; Jayne Downing-Center for Hope & Safety; Jake Houge-Gilbert House; Brad Nanke-City Councilor; Dave Russell-Wtlec; Jackie Leung-MIC; Micki Varney; Jane Aiken-Municipal Court; Joan Tomlinson-City Vibe; Ken Ploeser-Creek Walk Project; Kimberly Fanshier-Marion Polk Food Share; Sheryl Buchheit-NW Human Services; Melanie Zermer-KMVZ; Pamela Lyon Nelson-Salem Homeless Coalition; George Katsinis-Northgate Wesleyan Church; Pamela Olson; John Stadick-Pioneer Trust Bank; Susie D'Anna-Home Base Shelters; Virginia Green-Shine On Salem; Rod Jones-Court Street Legal; Bonnie Heitsch; Gary Miller-and Hollie Oales-Miller- DSA; Vincent Nistico; David Glennie-Telos; Jessica Munoz-NWHS; Yvonne Putze- Deepwood; Ed Smith; Kendra Taylor-Kindness Kloset; Larry Masset; Rene McConaha-Homeless Chef; Blake Bural –AC+CO Architecture; Pamella Watson, Delana Beaton and Kathleen Thorpe-Home Base Shelters.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

00:03:45

Motion: Move to approve the agenda for March 6, 2018, as presented.

Motion by: Member Vugteveen (?)

Seconded by: Member Doty

Action: Agenda for March 06, 2018, approved as presented.

Vote: Aye: Unanimous **MOTION CARRIES**

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

00:04:00

Motion: Move to approve the minutes for February 06, 2018, as presented.

Motion by: Member Phillips

Seconded by: Member Kern

Action: Minutes for February 06, 2018, approved as presented.

Vote: Aye: Unanimous **MOTION CARRIES**

4. DISCUSSION

A. Future Meeting Schedule

00:04:18

Presentation by: Councilor Cara Kaser

Comments and questions: Kaser,

Consensus: Hold a fourth meeting (April) and extend meetings to two hours.

- B. **Revisit issues and causes from prior meeting** 00:06:00
Presentation by: Kristin Retherford and Trevin Upkes
Comments and questions: Retherford (Art-A-Potties-Non-profit program); Upkes (Homeless camp near Gilbert House-ODOT property)
- C. **Put yourselves in their shoes** 00:10:45
Handout: *Guide to Services*
Presentation by: Kristin Retherford
Comments and questions: Retherford (overview); Houghton (offered homeless statistics from ARCHES);
- I. **What are we solving for? Downtown Issues** (Full list in 02/06/18 minutes)
 - Top Items** (per dots placed by audience):
 1. Bathrooms/toilets/hygiene
 2. Behavioral expectations
 3. Safe Downtown for everyone
 4. Clean-up garbage/human detritus
 - **New items added from email comments:**
 - Customers avoid downtown due to aggressive behavior from homeless individuals.
 - Inappropriate comments by homeless individuals
 - Aggressive panhandling
 - Business have extra exterior cleaning on a daily basis and have to ask campers to move on
 - Uncertain sources of food
 - II. **Potential Causes of the problem:** (see full list in 02/06/18 minutes)
 - Top Items** (per dots placed by audience):
 1. Substance abuse and mental health
 2. Low housing stock over the past 10 years (for low-income persons)
 3. Lack of transitional housing
 4. Lack of personal resources/toilets/showers
 - **New items added from email comments:**
 - Domestic violence
 - Economics and job loss
 - Skyrocketing rent
 - Disabling injury
 - Medical issues
 - Mental illness
 - III. **Who is impacted by the problem? How many people/groups does this impact?**
 - Families of homeless
 - Homeless
 - Retailers/business/customers/property owners impacted due to safety, cleanliness, especially after dark
 - Economic impact
 - Put/donate funds towards clean-up
 - Visitors (out of town) world-wide problem
 - City government - not limited to downtown
 - Police- unfairly burdened
 - All first responders
 - Health care & charity organization
 - Residents
 - Civil, criminal justice system

- Recreational users of parks/paths
- IV. Who needs to be involved in solving the problem, who are the players?**
- State agencies
 - Hospital
 - County
 - Homeless representative
 - Faith organizations – street ministries
 - Council
 - Business/Retailers
 - Service providers
 - Higher learning
- V. How do they relate to the problem?**
- More need than resources
 1. Meals & laundry
 - Funding resources:
 1. City Council
 2. Marion and Polk Counties
 3. State agencies
 - Forming relationships (each situation is unique)
 1. Homeless
 2. Churches
 3. Business
 - Homeless representatives
 - Elevated sensitivity
 - Educational institutions: Willamette University, Western Oregon University, Chemeketa Community College, Corban, Salem Keizer School District
 1. Skill training
 2. Fundraising
 - Cleanliness/self-policing – taking responsibility
 - Keeping, attracting tenants
 - Staff resources to address tenant issues
 - City services – How they are used to address issue
 - Education on resource list – manage expectations of list
 - Partnerships between service providers & business
 - Police, communication opportunities, include warm handoff in the process
 - Provide services to businesses (search & rescue)
 - Fear, what can people do to help?
 - Compassion, but request to do something
 - Property value impacts
- VI. Imagine that you are a stakeholder that has impacted the problem.**
- **How does their day, or experience, start?**
 1. Safety issues (city is inviting)
 2. Overwhelmed by life
 3. Uncertainty - different individuals in front of business
 4. Picking up trash, debris from overnight sleeping by building, businesses
 5. Hopeless/traumatized – need mentors to show them a different way
 6. 20-40 people lined up at shelter door for shower, shelter, clothes, food, and case management

- **What happens along the way – are there painful points?**
 1. Potential eviction
 2. Difficulty navigating processes
 3. High stress levels
 4. Difficulty of living in public
 5. Survival – food, cleanliness
 6. Traumatized
- **Moments of opportunity to make connections?**
 1. Mentors/navigators
 2. Shelter/service providers
 3. Businesses could offer lunches
 4. Resources with support (navigator) to work through process consistently
 5. Compassionate relationships
 6. Give five minutes of undivided attention: ask: “how are you doing?”
 7. Communication/education – between businesses and homeless
 8. Non-familial approach to offering assistance – often accepted better

5. **ADJOURN** 07:35 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: March 20, 2018

01:29:20