



Public Works Department

555 Liberty Street SE / Room 325 • Salem OR 97301-3513 • Phone 503-588-6211 • Fax 503-588-6025

Food and Sundries to the Homeless Community Task Force Meeting Minutes February 28, 2019 Public Works Department, Room 325

Members Present

Ashley Hamilton, ARCHES Project, MWVCC
Dan Sheets,
Gretchen Bennett, City Manager's Office
Jackie Driscoll Kelly, Salem New Beginnings
Jennifer Kellar, Parks & Recreation Services Manager
Josh Lair, Be Bold Street Ministries
Sergeant Kevin Hill, Salem Police Department
Kevin Hogan, River Church
Sheri Wahrgren, Salem Urban Development Director
Lorrie Walker, Advocate
Micki Varney, Salem Parks & Recreation Advisory Board
Murray Giesbrecht, Emmanuel Bible Church
Sarah Owens, CAN-DO Neighborhood Association

Staff Present

Mark Becktel, AICP, Public Works Operations Manager
Carol McMann, Staff Assistant

Consultant

Libby Barg Bakke, Barney & Worth

Guest Presenter

Alisa Zatoupil, Marion County Public Health, Environmental Health

1. Call to Order and Introductions:

Called to Order at 6:02 p.m. Mark Becktel welcomed everyone. The group went around the room for introductions of Members, Staff and Consultant.

2. Approval of February 21, 2019, Meeting Minutes:

Feedback was raised as to the format of the minutes. Since the task force is not a set Board or Commission, the simple format was appropriate for the limited duration of the task force. The minutes reflected that Murray Giesbrecht was present. He was not present at the February 21, 2019, meeting. Motion to amend minutes was seconded all approved by the majority. Minutes were approved as amended.

3. Benevolent Temporary Restaurant License:

When feeding the public, Marion County Public Health requires a permit. A temporary restaurant application permit was reviewed by the task force. The permit would be filed by the site coordinator. Dan Sheets mentioned that he has not seen one of these permits and he has been operating benevolent feeding for years. Discussion ensued as to who would have to get the permit, how often a permit is needed, and fee structure. Most organizations meeting tonight could not afford a permit fee in addition to the food they are providing. Ms. Zastoupil

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Willow Lake Water Pollution Control Facility

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suggested having a discussion with the Marion County Board of Commissioners to see if there is a way for fee reduction or elimination. The task force could make a recommendation to the Board of Commissions as it moves forward with recommendations. Marion County Public Health will work with current organizations on fee and permit process. Ms. Zastoupil explained site inspections are random and would also be complaint driven. Another suggestion was to utilize professional kitchens such as The Union Gospel Mission who holds a permanent license and is routinely inspected. UGM management would have to make that decision. The question of Polk County and their policies was raised. The same recommendation to Polk County Board of Commissioners will be made.

4. Meeting #1 Feedback Summary:

A copy of the feedback summary was handed out to the Task Force. The Task Force reviewed the principles of what we want to achieve, what the negative impacts are, and what the success factors are. A discussion about the gathering before and after meal disbursement would be a problem leading to camping at the site. Loitering and trash build up was the main concern whether it is a park or site such as Arches parking lot.

One suggestion was to place a fence around a concrete pad that could be locked by each group coordinator. Garbage and restroom facilities could be located inside. Would this site be rotating or just located downtown? The fencing option would work best downtown. Can the area under the bridge be used? The physical environment under the bridge would have to be changed. Enforcement of such a site might be problematic. The success factors should be short-term and long-term.

5. Solution Success Factors:

The Task Force was asked to focus on solutions or success factors.

- Some level of oversight
- Have a separate “Benevolent” permit (year round)
- Provide “Tip” with permit.
- Host meals inside such as Arches
- Physical site looking at lighting, surface, covered versus non covered, vehicle access would be helpful
- Disbursement methods including sites limits
- Management including clearing up the SRC language and the permit
- Process
- Management such a coordinator so there is no duplicated efforts
- Communication and collaboration, single point of contact, in connection, streamline the process
- In connections with Public and Mental Health.
- To warming shelters.
- Consistency
- Enforcement including signage

6. Public Comment:

- Downtown specific site – covered / uncover
- Pack trash out
- Treat like humans. Families with children, single, all walks of life.
- Keep area open available to all homeless.
- Area for those with pets.

7. Adjournment: Task Force adjourned at 7:44 p.m.

Next Meeting: March 7 at 6:00 p.m.