

THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU, ALASKA

Meeting Minutes - August 28, 2017

I. Call to Order

Chair White called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

Members Present: Debbie White, Maria Gladziszewski, Norton Gregory, Kenny Solomon-Gross, and Mariya Lovishchuk.

Members Absent: JPD Chief Ed Mercer and Bruce Van Dusen

Staff Present: Scott Ciambor, Chief Housing Officer

II. Approval of Agenda

Agenda approve without objection.

III. Approval of Minutes

A. Meeting Minutes August 8, 2017

IV. Agenda Topics

A. Case Study

Chair White introduced a visiting group of providers working on homeless issues in Ketchikan, Alaska.

Scott Ciambor discussed a case study of a homeless individual that signified the communities struggle with providing adequate housing and homeless services to a person with complex needs. This individual occupied a lot of staff and community partner time in the previous week including emergency services, housing and service providers. This person ranks high on the vulnerability index list and is a candidate for the type of services outlined in the Juneau Coalition on Housing and Homelessness proposals.

B. Campground Options

Taskforce discussed potential campground options on CBJ property and where this might be placed. Taskforce reviewed table provided by Lands and Resources Department.

Scott Ciambor explained that the list is only CBJ properties and that a previously

discussed downtown campground on AJT Mining was not included because not CBJ controlled. Maria Gladziszewski commented that the sites were not great options. Debbie White guided committee to remove options from the list.

Taskforce discussed the campground list and downtown parking areas in packet. M. Lovishchuk comments that utilizing space in parking garage might help with current safety concerns. Debbie White notes the high cost of parking and that this isn't best use of public facilities. Kenny Solomon-Gross mentions legislative use in winter.

M. Gladziszewski mentions goal for taskforce to provide a couple of options to be on the table. Taskforce agrees that none of them are really good options.

Scott notes that taskforce also needs to consider who they are targeting - these are individuals with severe mental illness who have been in on the streets for some time. Considering these factors it will be hit or miss whether a campground would be utilized if set up.

M. Lovishchuk mentions that Glory Hole is already at capacity and there is an urgency. Debbie White says that although a campground isn't a permanent solution we do need to consider immediate options and how to mitigate impacts to other parts of the community.

M. Gladziszewski asks if an indoor warming center is a better solution. Scott updates that Salvation Army has new interim leadership and that space isn't an option at this time. If to operate something similar to the previous year than it would also require financial support for staffing since their experience with volunteer model was difficult. M. Lovishchuk notes that the warming center is not a dead issue but would have to find another spot and that since there will likely be campers finding a spot for them should be done and beside wouldn't likely take a lot of resources.

C. Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority Update

S. Ciambor reports that the CBJ has submitted a grant for a Housing and Homeless Services Coordinator position from the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority. The AMHTA will take this request up at their next meeting in September.

D. Support

None

E. Juneau Coalition on Housing and Homelessness Proposal

Scott Ciambor reported that the Juneau Coalition on Housing and Homelessness held a retreat in July and established a set of guiding principles as well as proposals for moving forward.

M. Gladziszewski notes that these are good ideas and becomes a priority of the Assembly to determine how much money to allocate to this -- tobacco tax money, other things.

Taskforce discussed scattered site permanent supportive housing and Assertive Community Treatment team.

Norton Gregory asks about the costs to the community if we don't do anything in the long run. It seems we are spending exorbitant amounts of money in emergency services, we might as well provide housing and service to improve quality of life and benefit the overall community by getting people off the streets. Debbie notes comments made to her about the number of social service jobs and resources in this community being provided for these individuals already. Norton would like additional numbers on costs.

Kenny says that the JCHH proposals are really trying to push the community forward on this issue and really likes the Assertive Community Treatment team and is a good direction.

Norton Gregory introduces the new Veterans Administration Supportive Housing Program who will be utilizing 20 VASH vouchers in the region.

M. Gladziszewski asks if we need more information on JCHH proposals. S. Ciambor said that he could update information from Housing First efforts and previous numbers from CDBG efforts.

F. Garbage/Potties update

S. Ciambor reports that the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority is paying for dumpster at KTOO. This arrangement is in place until there is a decision on what to do with campers on AMHTA property. Also locating of port o potties adjacent to the property was put on hold because of upcoming land sale. The property is scheduled to be trespassed September 5.

V. Public Participation on Non-Agenda Items

Evelyn Elberle introduces members from Ketchikan and discussed their efforts to develop housing and homeless services and operating sleep off.

Patrick Race lives and works in downtown and likes the communication with other communities. Scattered site housing is interesting that I'd like to re-emphasize because it

brings in money when people are in place by giving them an opportunity to receive their benefits. Invite members in the community that take umbrage with helping the needy; invite them to meetings or to stay at the campground. Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority interests him and he is disappointed they are kicking campers off the land given their missions and encourages City and members of this committee at their next meeting. The sites on CBJ land should be broadened for the campground including AMHTA land and private properties. Also, some empty building on S. Franklin in winter.

Mel Perkins, owner of Best Western. Thanks the committee for the work and as hoteliers recognizing the need. Hoteliers were concerned about the skate park on the campground list and happy it was removed. Trip Advisor is important for them and the other airport spot with visible tents and safety coming to the city. Another idea if needing a campground facility, on the bus lines - but warming center is better idea. Our shuttle vans have worked great and you might think of caravan concept to watch and take people to bus stop or hospital.

Jessica Baker, homeowner with elementary school child and am happy skate park has been removed from the list. Brotherhood Bridge is a great place to walk and it would be difficult if a campground. Used to live in Chico California and churches banded together to provide wet shelter options and the population kept control of one another because they wanted the resource. (M. Lovishchuk clarified that Glory Hole allows patrons to .1 alcohol limit so technically a wet shelter.)

VI. Staff Reports

VII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:31pm.