



Neighborhood and Community Services Human Services Commission

Wednesday, July 12th, 2017 6:00 pm
Tacoma Municipal Building, 747 Market Street, Room 148

Meeting Agenda

Those Present: Jovan, Kelly, Sean, Zach, Naomi, Kashmir, Jason, Janet, Elizabeth, Valentine, Dana

Those Absent: Korbett, Rahn, Brian

Quorum was met

Staff Present: Adam, Pam, Linda Stewart

1. Welcome/Call to Order

Jovan called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm.

2. Approval & Signing of June Meeting Minutes

Valentine voted to approve minutes at 6:06 pm, Janet seconded, all present approved (10) and no one voted against.

3. New NCS Director Introduction

Pam introduced Linda Stewart at 6:07 pm, who is new to the position at the interim with deep experience and passion for the opportunity.

Introductions of all Commissioners occurred.

4. State of Emergency Declaration Briefing

Linda Stewart and Pam

Declaration stemmed from the realization that the homeless population are living in unsafe and squalid conditions. That poses a health and safety risk to them. It also impacts business and property owners.

There is a three-phased approach:

1) First Mitigation Site (May 28 and temporary): addressing human suffering and the establishment of a mitigation site that target a densely populated area (The Compound). On city owned property a pop up mitigation site with portable toilets, fresh water, and hand washing stations along with garbage pick up and waste receptacles. Also important was more aggressive outreach to the residents there and to establish relationships with the people experiencing homelessness. The mitigation site has clearly been conveyed as a temporary measure. There are about 84 residents. Structures were established (not just tents). The response has ranged from residents saying they do not plan to leave, to those who have expressed gratitude and relief.

Phase 2: Stability Site (June 26)

A managed, occupied structure that is essentially a very large tent that can accommodate smaller tents within and around (located on Portland and Puyallup Ave). Portable toilets, handwashing stations, clean water, etc are also available there. Laundry and shower stations are also available. A partnership with Catholic Community Services is underway and they are

Members:

Jovan Dumas,
Chair

Korbett Mosesly,
Vice Chair

Kelly McDonald,
Secretary

Rahn Clayton

Zach Dillon

Kashmir Gavronski

Jason Grube

Indira Hubble

Brian Humphreys

Dana Owens-
Cheatham

Elizabeth Pebley

Valentine Smith

Janet Thiessen

Sean Waite

Naomi Wilson

Staff:

Linda Stewart,
Interim NCS
Director

Pam Duncan, HS
Division Manager

747 Market Street, Room 836, Tacoma, Washington 98402-3793, Phone (253) 591-5151

The City of Tacoma does not discriminate on the basis of disability in any of its programs, activities, or services. To request this information in an alternative format or to request a reasonable accommodation, please contact Neighborhood and Community Services at (253) 591-5151 (voice). TTY or speech-to-speech users please dial 711 to connect to Washington Relay Services, or email jjackson@cityoftacoma.org.



Neighborhood and Community Services Human Services Commission

there on site 24/7 administering support, relationship building, and connection to available services.

Priority is given to individuals who were living in The Compound, but others from encampments are invited.

This site is contracted through December 2017.

Naomi asked about the 52 arrests that occurred at the Mitigation Site: who are the perpetrators, what types of crimes, how does this negatively impact people experiencing homelessness through fees incurred from arrests.

Kelly asked if given the ordinance passed by City Council on 7/11/17 outlawing public camping if there is adequate space to house those experiencing homelessness around Tacoma and the answer is no.

Jovan asked about the reaction from the residents. Pam responded that last week there was a meeting to check in about the experience. 30 residents expressed an interest in developing a neighborhood council at the site and electing representative officers.

Kashmir asked if Tacoma has declared the city as a Sanctuary City and we have not. She wondered about how the police will interact with undocumented residents.

Naomi asked if the additional stabilization amenities were already available on imminent and those services are available now. As long as the residents are on site they have access to storage on site where the resident has a key. There is a protocol in place for how to treat property after a resident has exited. Naomi asked if there is a way to provide storage to those experiencing homelessness who are not actually residents. Pam's response is that the Emergency Temporary Aid and Sheltering Endeavor is focused specifically on those three phases, but the question is a valid one to be considered.

Phase Three: Longer Term Housing

Talking to motels about short term basis housing, what it would mean to develop a tiny house village (all of the policies and codes that need to be addressed), and there is discussion with Pierce County since this issue is not just for the city of Tacoma.

Currently there is not a plan, and the possibilities are being considered.

5. Human Services Commission Member Orientation

Pam opened to comment that most of the Commissioners are newer, having served for less than one year. A robust conversation occurred at the June 2017 meeting with excellent questions.

Pam asked for the Commission to adopt the Human Services Rules and Procedures, dated July 12, 2017.

After discussion, Zach recommended removing the paragraph on page three titled: "The Stabilization Fund Rating Committee" at 7:10 pm. Jason seconded. 10 voted to approve the amend and there were zero abstentions or no votes.

The purpose of the Commission is to serve as the representative community voice to the City Council and Community Vitality and Safety Committee (CVSC). Pam would like to see active involvement from Commissioners to attend the CVSC meetings and make

747 Market Street, Room 836, Tacoma, Washington 98402-3793, Phone (253) 591-5151

The City of Tacoma does not discriminate on the basis of disability in any of its programs, activities, or services. To request this information in an alternative format or to request a reasonable accommodation, please contact Neighborhood and Community Services at (253) 591-5151 (voice). TTY or speech-to-speech users please dial 711 to connect to Washington Relay Services, or email jjackson@cityoftacoma.org.



Neighborhood and Community Services Human Services Commission

recommendations.

6. Manager Update

Pam wanted to assure the Commissioners that the staff wants the experience on the Commissioner to be meaningful and value add.

A new Doodle poll will be sent for the three special informative meetings since only 9 commissioners completed and some of the dates have passed.

Pam underscored the importance of regular attendance to Commission meetings. She also mentioned the need for Commissioners to recuse themselves from any organization being funded to avoid the appearance of a conflict. Conflict of Interest is addressed on page 4 of 6 from the Human Services Commission Rules and Procedures.

Zach asked if there is a way to view a calendar for the intensive review and recommendation processes upcoming. Pam notified the HSC that CDBG/ESG opens in November—dates are not available currently for reviewing and recommendations but it will get to the Commission ASAP.

8. Other Business

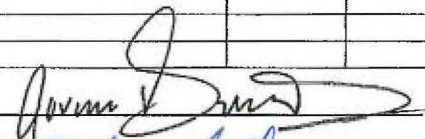
Public Comment

Adjournment

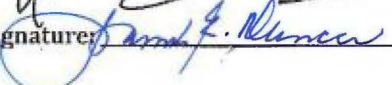
Sean moved to adjourn at 7:12 pm and Jason seconded. All ten voted yes, zero no votes or abstentions.

Upcoming Events

HSC August Meeting		The August HSC Meeting will be CANCELLED.

HSC Chair Signature: 

Date: 9/19/17

City of Tacoma Staff Signature: 

Date: 9/22/17