

Ad-Hoc Homeless Steering Committee (HSC)
Wednesday, October 26 2011
5:00 pm
Ashland Public Library

1. Call to order
2. Approval of Minutes
3. Debrief from City Council Meeting
4. Next Steps in Donation Box Process
5. Next Steps in Day Center/Shelter
6. Next Steps in Porta Potty Installation
7. Adding New Members to the Committee
8. Next Steps for HSC/ Parking Lot issues, etc.
9. Choosing a date & time for our 2nd regular meeting of each month
10. Adjournment



MINUTES
October 17, 2011
Ad Hoc Homelessness Steering Committee
Guanajuato Room, Ashland Public Library
7:00-8:30 p.m.

Attendance:

Ayers, Hopkins-Powell, Lewis, Parker, Rohde, Saldana, Mayor Stromberg

Absent: Everson, O'Bryon, Slattery (Council liaison), Voison (Council liaison), Seltzer (city staff).

Call to Order: Parker called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

Approval of Minutes: Lewis moved and Saldana seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the 9/15/11 meeting as presented.

Debrief from 10/4/11 City Council Meeting: Various members shared their impressions of the meeting. Concern was expressed that the HSC was not given enough time to fully present their proposals, since it was after 10 p.m. when the HSC proposals were introduced. Due to the lateness of the hour, the Council was unable to deliberate on the proposals that evening and will again address the proposals tomorrow night. Committee members felt that the two-week span between the HSC presentation and Council deliberation is problematic.

Discussion with Mayor Stromberg: The Mayor made an unexpected visit to the Committee to offer words of encouragement and appreciation for the work the HSC has been doing. Questions were asked about the protocols for discussion of the HSC's proposals at the City Council meeting on 10/18/11, and members were informed that no public comment would be permitted.

General discussion followed about whether or not to add new members to the HSC in the near future, and Committee members were supportive of that idea. Some committee members expressed a desire to seek more input from individual homeless community members, and to perhaps add a homeless person to the Committee. The mayor encouraged the committee to extend invitations to selected homeless people who have shown an interest in joining the conversation, to attend some of our meetings to see if we can work together in a productive way. The Mayor left after about 25 minutes of discussion.

Review of Staff Recommendations to City Council re. HSC Proposals: Committee members in general expressed disappointment in the staff's recommendations. Members stated that one portable toilet and one donation box were too few to effectively try out the concepts. Concern was voiced that the Council needs to endorse the need for a day-use center in concept, even if they don't agree with the specifics. It was moved by Hopkins-Powell and seconded by Saldana that the HSC draft a brief, written response to that effect, to be delivered to the City Council prior to its meeting tomorrow night. The motion passed unanimously. Chair Parker and Vice-Chair Rohde were authorized to draft the response for the Committee.

Regular Meeting Days & Times: There was a brief discussion about the need to establish regular meeting days and times, with the goal of meeting twice monthly. Parker will send out an email asking committee members to email her their 1st, 2nd, & 3rd choices for regular meeting days & times, and will then set the next meeting date.

Public input was solicited from the audience.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

-Minutes respectfully submitted by Heidi Parker



Proposals to forward to Council and Parking Lot Proposals
(as of June, 27 2011)
Ad hoc Homelessness Steering Committee

Forward to Council

- **Chamber of Commerce Donation Boxes**
The Chamber proposes paying for and placing “donation boxes” for people to deposit money to assist the homeless population. The Chamber is looking at possible non-profits to collect and administer the funds.
- **Public Toilets**
The proposal requests existing public restrooms be open 24/7 and to install portable toilets in locations where public restrooms do not exist. The proposal did not identify a source of funding or possible locations.
- **Homeless Committee**
The proposal requests the City to create a standing Homeless Committee.
- **Day Use Center**
The Salvation Army will provide day use services and is asking the City for a rent free building for one year. The committee requests the City provide space for three years.
- **Listening Post**
Provide a location to listen to people’s stories for a fixed number of hours per week (10-12) with trained volunteers who would sit and listen. The proposal seeks office space to provide the service. Trinity Church will recruit and train volunteers and will staff the listening post.

Parking Lot

- **Mobile Hospitality Center**
The proposal is for a mobile drop in center that moves to different locations to distribute supplies and provide information and access to social services. It did not identify a lead agency for the project. The committee asked the submitter to provide more information on how the program works in other communities before moving forward to the Council.
- **Jobs**
A number of proposals were submitted related to providing jobs for homeless persons but none were considered actionable by the HSC. The committee does want to actively solicit job related proposals in the next go around.
- **Peace House: Police**
The committee asked Chief Holderness to respond to the proposal statements.
- **Food Garden for Yard Privileges**
There was general discussion on how the project is currently working and what the proposal is asking of the City. Seltzer contacted the submitter for follow up information. Below is the response received on July 6 from submitter Aaron Fletcher:

Issue to be addressed



Solution

Background of submitter

Costs/funding

The Ashland homeless need places to sleep and the residents with yards need food gardens. The Homefree Project plans to rent unused spaces for the homeless to sleep and then they garden in the neighborhood for an hour each morning. The Community makes donations to our NO-profit organization and it ALL goes to renting additional spaces(yards, porches, garages and houses) until every yard is a garden and every person has a home! My name is Aaron Fletcher and I have 3 years experience living on the streets of Ashland, directly dealing with the homeless. We already have 2 adjustable noise monitors that will insure our responsible noise levels by flashing their red light when we are too loud. The cost of starting this project is \$200 to rent the first space for 6 homeless for 1 week. (produces \$420 of service to the community at a theoretical \$10/hour) There are tents at Get N' Gear that simply unfold themselves to land on the ground already assembled, no need for stakes or tie ups. We need 3 of these uniform color tents that cost \$75 each for a total project startup of \$425.

Thank you

