



# Homeless Services Masterplan Subcommittee Agenda

Community Development Building

51 Winburn Way

February 13, 2024

## MINUTES

**CALL TO ORDER:** 5:30 p.m.

**I. WELCOME & AGENDA REVIEW:** 5:30–5:35 p.m.

- Members would like name tents
- Agenda overview
- Need to add “Attendance” to each meeting agenda moving forward.
- Approval of previous meeting minutes needs to be added to all agendas moving forward.
  - Minutes were amended to change “AGENDA” to “MINUTES”, include the discussion/approval of recording dissenting parties/opinions to later bring to council, and add attendance to the minutes; minutes approved with amendments.
- Attendance: All members were in attendance with the following exceptions: Councilor **Bloom** and **Henigson-Kann** were absent, **Sacks** arrived late via zoom which cut out at 7pm due to Planning Commission meeting.

**II. PUBLIC FORUM:** 5:35–5:40 p.m.

Note: Anyone wishing to speak at any Housing and Human Services Advisory Committee meeting is encouraged to do so. If you wish to speak, please rise and, after you have been recognized by the Chair, give your name and complete address for the record. You will then be allowed to speak. Please note the public testimony may be limited by the Chair.

- Comments submitted digitally by Kathy Kali and supplied to all subcommittee members; no discussion on comments.

**III. FUTURE MEETING DATES:** 5:40–5:43 p.m.

- Discussion of conflicting schedules; motion to move the second meeting of the month from the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month to the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month and keep the first meeting of the month on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the Month
  - Motion 2<sup>nd</sup>ed and passed with no opposition; concerns about absent members availability and room availability.

**IV. SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP:** 5:43–6:05 p.m.

- **Slattery** motions with a 2<sup>nd</sup> from **Neisewander** to allow a representative, Jim **Bachman** from the Parks Commission to join the Subcommittee.
  - Discussion: **Rohde** “less supportive”/“in opposition” for creating an unfair appearance (ie. members elected after the fact that have clout/positions of power) in staffing the subcommittee, if we allow one in after members are chosen, would we allow for more?; **Slattery** in favor, people with valuable resources like Parks Commission should be at the table since they are a major player and possibly a resource provider; **Calvin** argues that Slattery’s view would mean



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including many other “players” that are missing from the subcommittee but is in favor of the vote; **VanEgdom** questions how the subcommittee was advertised and whether there was ample opportunity for others to join; Staff Member **Reid** and **Fields** explain that the subcommittee was advertised on the City of Ashland website as well as other regular channels used by the city in addition to City Council announcement and focused/direct outreach to diverse channels, such as the schools, known players that may have suggestions, etc.; **Reid** expressing her mixed opinion on the vote, reiterates that there are other missed stakeholders, states that the Parks department will be impacted by choices made in the subcommittee and affected by the process/scope; **Rohde** reminds the group that anyone can come to the meetings and provide input via comments and will have outreach opportunities

- Vote result: no opposition to Parks Commissioner **Bachman** joining subcommittee, vote passes.
- Secondary vote: Should **Bachman** have voting power on the subcommittee? There was a motion and 2<sup>nd</sup> to allow voting power; no opposition, vote passes.
- **Neisewander** brings up **Sgt. Leonard’s** voting power as a continuation from the last meeting; **Sgt. Leonard** wants to act in an advisory position only with no voting power, no vote carried out.
- Parks Commissioner **Bachman** introduces himself and his experience as it relates to the subcommittee.

### V. DEFINING THE PROBLEM: 6:05–7:00 p.m.

- Instructions: everyone is numbered off 1-3 and broken off into groups and given 15 minutes per question to discuss the two questions provided in the agenda before reconvening to discuss as whole group:
  - From your vantage point, how do you define the scope of the problem in Ashland?
  - How do you understand the Council directive to “define the scope of the problem in Ashland”?
- Group 3 has 1 less person due to numbering; Staff and Council form their own group.
- Group 3 report out: homelessness should be rare, brief; everyone is included in the scope (no us vs them); community consensus and representation are important; “housing is the answer” from Homelessness Summit; budgeting
- Group 2 report out: variable reasons for/time in homelessness; has a broader impact on the whole community; lack of good data; suggestion to work with Medford/other regional partners (regional issue vs local issue); use more “sticks” with our “carrots”; dynamic/multi-faceted problem; lack of intangible resources such as volunteer’s time; lack of prevention measures; can’t end homelessness without understanding the scope.
- Group 1 report out: no differentiation between personal viewpoints and council’s request (100% overlap); problems of homelessness; impacts whole community; lack of resources for the homeless; unsure of financing and where to invest the money; suggests narrowing the issue to specifically Ashland for scope of project but acknowledge a regional issue.



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- **Sgt. Leonard** suggests that we have to include the county scope; **VanEgdom** reminds us that state and federal are also relevant to the scope but we need to narrow it to the city to take care of this that are already here; **Leonard** attributes the influx to the safety and overall character of Ashland, **Neisewander** concurs with the safety aspect
- Council/Staff: **Councilor Kaplan** states that it is a dynamic, not static issue; Staff Member **Reid**: we have the least amount of resources, furthest from resources without having the smallest population, but people come to us, disadvantaged due to this; created much with very little compared to other larger jurisdictions.

### VI. **ROADMAP:** 7:00–7:30 p.m.

- Discussion: **Bachman** states that the roadmap is good, but questions how do we do it?; **Rohde** suggests a map of the resources (asset based community development); **Calvin** suggests members take some time to digest the roadmap and pose any questions or provide any ideas that they may have; **Councilor Kaplan** points out that we should talk about what is missing; **Turner** brings up the topic of financing, wants to know what the current funding amounts are, what total resources we have; **Price** suggests including the value of the human capital, such as volunteer's time, meals provided, etc.
  - Discussion topics included: expanding the agencies and organizations to include volunteers, etc.; suggestion to include private (individual and business) measures taken to provide extra security; possible presentation from a COC representative; possible presentation from Staff Member **Reid**; suggestion to utilize the data from/add to resource list the Medford Chronic Homeless Outreach Partnership (CHOP); quality data is hard to find; suggestion to reach out to the CCO's that are required to invest in homeless/housing; Community Health Assessment (CHA) done every 5 years and provides good data; identifying possible other partner organizations; clarification to roadmap: "Responsibilities of COC" is *any* COC not necessarily an Ashland-specific COC; Ashland does not have access to HMIS data but can reach out and request it; discussion of timeline.

### VII. **DEBRIEF:** 7:30–7:35 p.m.

- Before next meeting: determine which areas of the roadmap individuals are interested in and start assigning members to them; set agenda (Executive Group); arrange a presentation from either staff member **Reid** or a COC representative (staff); create contact list (staff); start data gathering.
- The roadmap was neither approved nor denied, suggestions made for modifications.
- 1 word summary close-out from group.
- **Neisewander** suggests that those interested in a tour of Rogue Retreat Shelters reach out to arrange a tour; tours take place on Fridays.

### VIII. **ADJOURNMENT:** 7:35 p.m.

#### **Next Meeting Date: Wednesday, February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024, from 5:30–7:30 PM**

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please email [linda.reid@ashland.or.us](mailto:linda.reid@ashland.or.us). Notification 72 hours prior to the meeting will enable the City to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to the meeting (28 CFR 35.102–35.104 ADA Title 1).

