

Downtown Homeless Solutions Task Force

Meeting Agenda #3 – Review Community Solutions

Tuesday, March 20, 2018, 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Salem City Library, Anderson A, 585 Liberty St SE

Action Agenda/Minutes complements the meeting audio recording attached to the online Minutes.

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Audio: 00:00:00

CALL TO ORDER: 6:00 p.m.

Welcome and Introductions

(Hr. Min. Sec)

ROLL CALL: Councilors Cara Kaser-Chair (Ward 1), Councilor Jim Lewis (Ward 8); and Matthew Ausec (Ward 5); Al Tandy-Salem Summit, ~~Brad Compton~~- Jon Stadick Pioneer Trust Bank, Dana Vugteveen-Salem Center Mall, Evan Delgado-Governor's Cup, Gayle Doty-Building Owner, Jon Reeves-MWVCAA, Christy Wood-Run-Away Art Studio; Neal Kern-CANDO, Paul Logan-NW Human Services, Sandy Powell-Olivia's, Shannon Garcia-Oregon Law Center, Trevor Phillips-Salem Hospital

MEMBERS ABSENT: Angie Onyewuchi, Jason Myers, Irene Bernards, Steven Hill

STAFF: Kristin Retherford and Sheri Wahrgren-UD, Dan Atchison-Legal, Mark Becketl-PW, Brady Rogers-CD, Andy Wilch-Salem Housing Authority, Ali – COG, Treven Upkes-SPD

GUESTS: Rene McConaha-Homeless; Brandelynn Heath-Project Able; Josh Lair, Gary Schreck and Matt Maceira-Be Bold Street Ministries; Maya Close, Pamella Watson and Delana Beaton-Home Base Shelters; Chris May-S. Salem Church of the Nazarene; Gary Miller, Matthew Miller and Hollie Oales-Miller-DSA;; Virginia Green-Shine on Salem; Kenneth Houghton-Community Action, ARCHES; Dave Nuss-Church at the Park; Jayne Downing-Center for Hope & Safety; Blake Bural-AC+Co. Kevin Cunningham; LouEllen Person-JBC-Jefferson; Fonda Knight ; Bruce DeForest; Melanie Zermer-KMUZ-FM; Reece Brown; Lori Walker-MBSS; David Watson-1st Congregation UCC; Ryan Ervin-Social Work Student; Joan Tomlinson and Art Scaquone-City Vibe; Dustin Stratton; Jeanine Knight-Union Gospel Mission; Kyleigh Gray-Law Student; Aria Cherney; Ken Ploeser-Creek Walk Project; Marcy Mee-DHS; Jackie Reeder; Alyssa Delgado; Jim Qunech; Tara Aricha; Michael Kort; Angelina Macnab; David Russell; David West-Two Homeless Guys; Mark Weisgram; Teri Daly; Karen Kirschner; Bill Thorp; Karin Shinn; Micki Varney.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

00:01:50

Motion: Move to approve the agenda for March 20, 2018, as presented.

Motion by: Member Vugteveen

Seconded by: Member Ausec

Action: Agenda for March 20, 2018, approved as presented.

Vote: Aye: Unanimous **MOTION CARRIES**

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

00:02:10

Motion: Move to approve the minutes for March 06, 2018, as presented.

Motion by: Member Ausec

Seconded by: Member Jon Reeves or Stadick (which one?)

Action: Minutes for March 06, 2018, approved as presented.

Vote: Aye: Unanimous **MOTION CARRIES**

4. DISCUSSION

A. Recap of Prior Meetings

00:02:30

Presentation by: Cara Kaser and Kristin Retherford

Comments and questions: Kaser (scope of Task Force), Retherford (why the focus on Downtown), Upkes (Center Street walkway; and ordinances), Garcia (number of homeless resisting assistance), Wood (Task Force priorities; ordinance changes)

I. What are we solving for?

- Bathrooms/toilets/hygiene
- Behavioral expectations
- Safe Downtown for everyone

- Clean-up garbage/human waste
- II. **Potential causes of the problem**
- Substance abuse and mental health
 - Low housing stock over the past 10 years (for low-income persons)
 - Lack of transitional housing
 - Lack of personal resources/toilets/showers
- III. **Homeless Individuals**
- Life or death issue
 - May not want services with strings attached
 - Food, safety, hygiene
 - May have opportunity to influence their destiny
 - Operates as local refugees (outside society)
 - Drug abuse is a disease process
 - Trauma and crisis impacts choices
 - Uncertainty in life and fear about what's next
- IV. **Statements (Homeless) to Questions to Solutions** 00:23:00
- Homeless individuals are overwhelmed with challenges and feelings of hopelessness.
 1. What individuals or organizations are best equipped to help them with their challenges?
 2. What can downtown businesses and providers do to help them feel less hopeless?
 3. What can I do?
 - a. Reach out and make contact,
 - b. Offer assistance.
 - c. Ask for assistance
 - d. Downtown training for consistent empathetic approach to homeless.
 - e. Have consistent boundaries and consequences.
 - f. Explore revenue options such as a bond measure for housing or CET.
 - g. Assessment of laws and ordinances to protect everyone;
 - h. Expand clean team, possible work opportunities for homeless.(New Mexico model)
 - i. Options to have safe disposal of hazardous materials.
 - i. Install parking meters for donations. \$
 4. Why are individuals feeling hopeless? Needs additional participants
 - a. Solutions addressed individually.
 - b. Money needed.
 - Homeless individuals have sanitation & hygiene needs.
 1. What barriers do individuals face to meeting their sanitation and hygiene needs?
 - a. Low maintenance and safe toilet facilities in multiple location on public or private properties: \$\$
 - i. Could be Art-a-Potties or
 - ii. Permanent facilities (i.e. Portland "Loo": <http://theloo.biz/>)
 - b. Train people to do outreach and build relationships, \$\$
 - c. Provide options and define expectations
 - i. Have consequences for misbehavior.
 - d. Provide Sharps containers downtown for needles.
 2. How can the City provide financially viable bathrooms and their maintenance and enforcement to keep them safe?
 - a. Portland "Loo": <http://theloo.biz/>
 - b. Port-a-Potties
 - c. Multiple locations. Private or public property?
 - Homeless individuals have safety needs. Needs additional participants

1. Where is their safe place?
 - a. Consider other types of safe housing. \$\$\$
 - i. Tent communities to pods or tiny houses.
 - ii. Identify places for organized camping.
 1. Provide tents.
 2. Provide sanitation.
 3. Control the area. Identify who monitors the camps.
 4. Storage
 - b. Provide safe controlled storage for possessions. \$\$
 - i. Bins with mailing address for homeless to establish a residence.
 - c. Consider large shelters
 - i. Like aluminum buildings which can be heated
 - d. Consider distributed shelters
 - i. Multiple smaller sites
2. How do we find them a home?
3. What does a safe place look like?
4. When are needs greater or lesser? (winter)
- Homeless individuals have difficulty navigating processes.
 1. How do we make it easy for them to do the right thing?
 2. How can we organize this complicated process?
 3. Why do some individual have difficulty navigating the system?
 - a. Simplify the 211 guide
 - b. Provide simple flow chart – Male and Female options
 - i. Current 211 not updated often enough. Portland based.
 - c. Make 211 local
- Homeless individuals sometimes trespass on private property and leave personal property and waste for others to clean up.
 1. Whose responsibility is it to clean hazardous materials?
 2. How can hazardous waste be cleaned?
 3. How do we help people understand the impact of the choices they make?
 4. Where can they leave personal property?
 5. Is there accountability?
 - a. Need more locking garbage collection sites downtown,
 - i. Emptied daily.
- Homeless individuals have food/nourishment needs
 1. Where can they meet their nutritional needs?
 2. How do we eliminate food insecurity?
- Homeless individuals with drug addiction and mental health issues might not make the best decisions when presented with opportunities that could benefit them.
 - 1.

v. **Statements (Service Providers and Faith Organizations) to Questions** 00:28:30

- Service providers do not have enough resources to meet needs.
- Service providers experience great demand for access to case management, shelter, food, showers, clothing, and laundry equipment and health care (mental health/substance abuse).
- Service providers have expertise in relationship building and mentoring.

VI. **Statements (Workers and Visitors) to Questions**

- People who work and visit downtown are concerned about safety issues.
- ~~People who work and visit downtown experience sanitation issues.~~
- ~~People who work and visit downtown don't know how to help.~~
- ~~People who work and visit downtown fail to exercise empathy.~~

VII. **Statements (Businesses) to Questions**

- ~~Businesses face sanitation issues such as human waste and trash and have to spend their time cleaning up after homeless individuals.~~
- Businesses have homeless individuals camp and loiter in front of their storefront.
- Businesses have homeless individuals trespass on their private property and use facilities intended for customer use.
- Businesses have customers who don't want to go into their stores because of behaviors of homeless individuals.
- Businesses don't know who is able to help nor who to contact to get help with (and for) homeless individuals.
- Businesses experience increased shoplifting due to homeless population.
- Businesses engaging financially.

VIII. **Statements (Property Owners) to Questions**

- Property owners face many of the same issues as business owners, such as sanitation, waste, camping, and loitering.
- Property owners have challenges attracting and keeping tenants due to the impacts of homelessness.
- Property owners incur costs for security and cleaning related to the impacts of homeless individuals.

B. **Review Solutions Suggested In Community Comments.**

01:58:00

Presentation by: Kristin Retherford

Comments and questions: Please review

I. **Cleanliness, Hygiene and Sanitation**

- Provide public restrooms open 24/7 and showers.
- Offer chits to redeem for food, shelter and clothing.
- Post rules for downtown behavior.
- Regularly clean the downtown.
- Pass an ordinance not to allow public defecation and cite people for leaving refuse and for defecation in public.
- Offer lockable storage for belongings.
- Offer jobs to homeless (including health insurance coverage) to build and maintain shelters, bathrooms/showers.
- Mobile showers
- Mobile laundry
- Post resource lists.
- Restore Porta Potties downtown.
- Pay homeless to pick up trash.
- Provide safe space for storage.
- Move the UGM out of the downtown.
- Pay homeless to keep their areas clean.
- Stop having food drops or providing meals outside of shelters, and groups who feed/supply food should be required to pick up the waste and litter.
- Enforce ordinances against human defecation in public.

II. **Camping and Loitering**

- Make "vagrancy" illegal to get folks into the existing system for treatment.
- Have Police tour downtown and roust campers nightly.

- Pass ordinance to make it an offense to camp in public areas, parks and sidewalks. Impose fines or jail time and make these rather drastic so they can act as a deterrent.
 - Empower the city, similar to what is being proposed in Portland, to take action, regardless of who owns a property where a homeless camp is established.
 - Empower judges to impose fines and jail sentences without the possibility of appeal, as long as the facts are clear and evidence shows that (a) law(s) were broken
 - Empower local law enforcement to act swiftly and caution homeless people or, alternatively arrest them and hold up deadlines, i.e. give for example 24-hours' notice.
 - Put constant pressure on homeless people and keep them on the move so that they leave Salem and surrounding areas.
 - Enforce loitering and panhandling laws and/or ordinances or in absence of such create them in order to remove panhandlers from street corner and campers from parks and downtown.
 - Hold people accountable and hold them responsible for their actions or lack thereof.
- III. Public Safety
- Deputize group to enforce downtown rules.
 - Increase police patrols.
- IV. Broad Issues
- Streamline funding for the most impact
 - Dry shelters – transitional housing
 - Use taxes from marijuana sales for mental health and drug rehab
 - Tiny house communities
 - Dedicate apartments for homeless families.
 - Look at solutions from successful cities.
 - Utilize abandoned buildings (i.e. Truitt Bros warehouse, old K-Mart on 25th) near services.
 - Rent stabilization.
 - Reintegration programs.
 - Tent City: Pick one location near services: tents, Porta Potties, and garbage cans.
 - Partner with Chamber of Commerce to give jobs to job ready homeless.
 - LEAD program – Navigator tracks homeless folks and offers medical treatment and prevention.
 - Declare homelessness a public health emergency.
 - Sobering center
 - Set up “pod” camps under the road overpasses with solar power and central bathrooms /showers – each pod would have a legal address so people could apply for jobs.
 - Employ homeless to build pod homes.
 - Safe place to receive mail/ fixed address to get a job
 - Help homeless individuals start up small businesses.
 - More mental health facilities

C. Brainstorm Solutions for Identified Issues and Impacts (see questions and solutions above)

D. Identify Needed Resources for Proposed Solutions.

E. Identify Any Budgetary Impacts of Proposed Solutions.

F. Identify Any Possible Obstacles to Implementation

G. Discuss timeline for implementation and next steps.

5. ADJOURN 08:00 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: April 4, 2018

02:00:00