

DRAFT MINUTES

1. Mayor's Welcome. Mayor LaMear encouraged the group to get some action items going.
2. Brief recap of previous meeting by Chief Spalding.
3. Approval of Minutes of February 20, 2018 meeting. David Reid moved, Jarrod Karnofski seconded. Unanimously approved.

4. Presentation by Joe Kramer (introduced by Ron Maxted). Joe is 63 and has been definitionally homeless for seven years, the last three in Astoria. He works in lawn care.

Joe was born and raised in a family that lived for 60 years in the same house in Dayton, Ohio, where he took care of his mother for a few years. Home is a state of mind, a state of being. To be without four walls, to be without a dry and safe place to sleep, that is homelessness. Home. Less. Ness. Take out the "less" and you have Homeness. We're all born with an integral sense of Home. Crack into that sense and work from there.

We can't open the Warming Center for 12 hours a night from time to time and expect that to do much.

Joe doesn't feel homeless. He's always been at home. After three or four days in Astoria he felt right at home, everybody was genuine. Joe can make himself comfortable on concrete. A mom with children? They deserve better.

Joe's dad died in October 2001. His mom had a bad hip and needed help, so he helped. She died in 2009. All Joe inherited was bills. It wasn't long before he was on the street. He spent September through March of that first year in a shelter. Two or three hundred men in an old prison. He left it and went to a park. In May 2011, with seven cents in his pocket, he decided he'd walk to Oregon. He landed in Kenosha, Wisconsin, his sandals held together with wire. He met a guy named Tom who took off his shoe and said, "See if it fits. Try the other one. I've got other shoes."

He got a Greyhound to Astoria, sight unseen. He'd heard Oregon was a place where people think like Joe. He's been sitting on the US Bank ledge for years. That's his spot. A spot by the river.

Joe spent every night he could at the Warming Center but got literally kicked to the curb in the morning. Where are you going to go? It's still cold. It's still raining. It's usually still dark.

He's seen a change in the last few years. There are a lot more people. People used to live by the river and under the bridge and were left alone. Now the police give you a ticket. You roll up in your sleeping bag and go back to sleep. Where are we going to go?

Joe just bought a \$200 WeedEater for \$65. He's getting string and going to work.

Would Joe change? He'd like to say Yes, but the truth is, No. He's learned a lot. He has good company. Happiness is like Home: It's a state of mind. It's not something you go to the store to buy. It's not for sale. "Do I want to live in a motel room or a mansion?" What is your expectation of privacy? Can you lock your door, take off your clothes, run around naked and feel safe?

5. Presentation by Todd Williams, Silver Falls Dermatology. Todd is a family nurse practitioner from Macon, Georgia, where he was asked to do clinicals at a day respite shelter. Feet, nail, rashes -- all common among people experiencing homelessness. Services were provided through Saint Vincent de Paul and Daughters of Charity as federally qualified health clinics. Outreach one or two times per month, with patients signing up. Sliding scale for payment. Big community support. They served under the Good Samaritan Law and patients signed a waiver. Some of the patients had mental health problems. Macon has a permanent clinic with a paid coordinator in an industrial area near downtown and the park where the patients frequented. Cost about \$100,000/year.

Raven Brown: Providence runs a dental van in the same manner; Raven will ask if Providence would be interested in including medical services. No ID required. Only serves those without insurance.

Alan Evans: Catholic Charities is an amazing program. Clatsop isn't too far from pulling together the resources to provide better care. The footprint will be different in our rural area because where can we put people. When Alan was homeless, his feet were his biggest problem, even greater than finding a place to sleep at night.

Jarrold Karnofski: CMH has been discussing how it could address the needs of children by conducting outreach to schools.

6. General discussion.

Housing: Eugene has an interesting affordable housing program. Talk with them?

Connect housing with the people who need it. Advocate for restricting short term rentals, which increase housing costs. Who's talking to WalMart? It should be providing housing. Pacific Coast Seafoods is adding dormitory-style housing for its workers.

Bathrooms: Need more.

Health care: Need walk-in clinic for wraparound services for those without ID or insurance.

Need a day-use shelter for those who work nights.

7. Breakout topics -- include scope of problem and means of addressing:

Housing

Health Care

Connectivity (people with services; include transportation)

Employment (include day care)

Urgent Services (bathrooms, warming centers)

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Cindy Price

May 15, 2019