

# Homeless Solutions Task Force (HOST) meeting

Thursday, December 5, 2019

Towler Hall, room 310

DRAFT MINUTES

**1. Meeting called to order** at 10:05am by Chief Spalding.

**2. Attendance** as per attached rosters.

**3. Welcome** by Mayor Bruce Jones.

**4. Approval of Minutes** of October 1, 2019 meeting. Monica Steele moved, Raven Brown seconded. Unanimous.

**5. Countywide liaison position.** Powerpoint presentation by Jarrod Karnofski, attached. Basics:

- \$50K-\$90K/year depending whether position is held by County or by nonprofit.
- \$20K/year fixed costs for services
- If held by nonprofit, perhaps could have 1.5 FTE.
- Responsibilities: Some outreach to homeless community, but not to duplicate outreach currently provided by social services.
- More of a coordinating position to ensure appropriate, non-duplicative services are reaching those in need and to track data; and to explore funding strategies.
- County and county-wide service providers likely unable to partner financially if services restricted to one area, eg Astoria-Warrenton.
- Position supervised by a Community Advisory Board (CAB).
- Subcommittee will meet again prior to next HOST meeting, to clarify job description and select an oversight CAB. Subcom members are: Viviana Matthews (Chair), Jarrod Karnofski, Tom Leiner, Terri Steenbergen, Raven Russell, Monica Steele

Additional discussion points:

- See the [“Built for Zero”](#) methodology of a data-driven system and integrated authority for ending homelessness. Helps to understand whether work is getting people out of homelessness or just moving people on.
- Have a “proof of concept” period. Data from first year could be used to increase funding for follow-on years.
- Are there models for tracking and disseminating data? HUD database? Medical system “touch points”?
- Gresham Community Health Services Advisor Kevin Dahlgren is willing to come to next meeting.
- Adequate housing is a serious gap. There is capacity among most agencies to provide services, but it’s very hard without stable housing.

**6. Campsites.** (Detective Hansen, Chief Spalding). Still high numbers and an uptick in aggressive behavior. Cleanup near 40<sup>th</sup> & Erickson. Vern’s old house removed Dec 4, requiring two dump trucks. (It was very clean when Vern lived there. Hasn’t been used by locals since.) Mike Abrams’ excavator was vandalized afterward when someone threw in a log and ripped up the seats. APD responding to calls for service but otherwise not being proactive. Campsite on Taylor Avenue very bad, being removed December 6. Warnings posted several times; items of value will be booked in. Astoria Parks & Rec cleaning up a camp past 39<sup>th</sup> Street in the next few days. Campsite behind Goodwill in Warrenton a huge mess ([see the YouTube video](#)). People are abandoning camps and leaving everything behind because they know they’ll be given new stuff.

**7. Restrooms.** (Chief Spalding) Human and animal poop in downtown business area on the increase. Jonah Dart-McLean reported the City is looking at grant opportunities to purchase a Portland Loo to be placed at the

Nordic Park, and to add wayfinding to current restroom facilities. Mutt Mitts have been placed near the Library, where there is a significant problem.

David Reid will pitch the cruise lines for financial assistance for maintenance and upkeep of restroom facilities. The Downtown economy is essential to Astoria's vitality; anything the Chamber can do to help the economy succeed, it will do.

**8. Transitional housing.** Chief Spalding reports Ron Maxted is interested in a tiny home village. Mayor Jones is willing to entertain a fully fleshed-out proposal that includes siting, funding sources, and organizational responsibilities. Unknown who could undertake such a program locally; [Catholic Charities spearheaded one such village in Portland](#). Brooke Stanley will be the member liaison to Ron Maxted who will assemble some folk and bring a proposal to the HOST committee.

**9. Chronic nuisance ordinance and Exclusion Zone Ordinance** (Chief Spalding) will be discussing at City Council on Thursday, Dec 12 work session (1:00pm, Council Chambers). People committing chronic crimes in an area can be excluded from the area.

**10. Next steps** (Chief Spalding). This meeting marks the two-year anniversary of HOST. Chief Spalding will make a short list of the group's accomplishments and present to the committee to prioritize our recommendations to Council early next year. He'll bring the list to the next meeting for the group to prioritize. Mayor Jones suggested this group might transition to become the liaison board.

#### **11. Member roundtable.**

- Viviana Matthews: [Project Homeless Connect](#) is Tuesday, Jan 28, Seaside Convention Center.
- Monica Steele: The county is trying to convene a [Complete Count Committee](#) for the 2020 Census. She also reported an increase in vandalism at the Fairgrounds.
- Annie Martin: AWC has already served 46 unique individuals after being open 8 nights. AWC is working directly with CCA this year, and has a resource coordinator at AWC every open night.
- Sarah Lu Heath: Some people who came to the Downtown Christmas lighting events complained of finding poop on the sidewalks and said they wouldn't want to visit Downtown again.
- Chief Spalding: People are becoming less tolerant of bad behavior. According to Kevin Dahlgren, 30% of people experiencing homelessness don't want any help. APD wants to help as much as possible the 70% who do want help. The more that homeless persons help themselves and each other, the better.

#### **12. Guest comments.**

- Bruce Williams: What has HOST done to address mental health needs?
- Amy Baker: CBH now has three Recovery Allies (RaRa's) on the streets, trying to get people help.
- Jarrod Karnofski: CBH has added two social workers.
- Monica Steele: And CBH has a mobile crisis unit.
- Guest: The APD and City approach to homelessness is humane and caring. Has anyone considered a supervised camping area?
- Mayor Jones: No one has come forward to donate land for a camping area; and it would be a very big liability for the City.
- Erin Carlsen: Filling Empty Bellies put up a Christmas tree at the park last year. Directly after Christmas, the ornaments and lights were confiscated. Does anyone know where they are and how to avoid that this year?
- Jonah Dart-McLean: Come to the Parks Department to request permission.

**MEETING ADJOURNED 12:00 NOON**

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Price December 8, 2019