

City of Aberdeen Mayor's Homeless Housing Committee
Debi Pieraccini, Chair Meeting Notes 11.01.2022

Present: Debi Pieraccini, Kati Kachman, Liz Ellis, Kacey Ann Morison, Patrick McDaniel

Staff: Laina Moore, Dave Golding, Ruth Clemens, Lisa Scott

Mayor Schave

Guests: Joey Baninish and Robin Cozette, Project Hope and Recovery

Old Business/ACTION ITEMS:

- County Commissioner Kevin Pine has been invited to our meetings.
- Laina Moore invited Destination Hope& Recovery to this meeting.
- Continue to look at other properties that could be used as transitional living space by the unhoused. (on-going)
- Debi Pieraccini scheduled a tour of CCAP 10/10. Several committee members attended.
- Request program update from CCAP to understand the spectrum of programs they are managing, and which client base is served and how. (Awaiting report to committee)
- Liz Ellis is waiting to hear back from a Tacoma staff member with Catholic Community Services to learn how they might support a local shelter/tent community.
- Debi will contact the Mayor of Marysville to arrange a tour to learn more about their homeless services model. To be scheduled for early 2023

Guest Speakers: Joey Baninish and Robin Cozette, Co-Founders, Project Hope and Recovery (PHR)
PHR works with clients who need help with homelessness and behavioral health. They have a Recovery Navigator program and work with law enforcement to leverage their ability to respond to public safety and mental health calls. Referrals come from many partners. They are grant funded.

PHR also works with CCAP to find housing for clients. When asked how they measure success, the response was success is day by day and varies client to client. When asked what would help their work, their response was support from the community, more grants, and better data that truly reflected the severity of homelessness here beyond gap analysis reports.

Housing is also in short supply and having access to different types of housing and more units would help get the most vulnerable people off the streets and create better stability for them to begin to realize a better quality of life.

New Business:

- Rules of Engagement. Ruth Clemens facilitated a discussion about which ground rules the Committee would like to see that would help us have respectful discussions on very difficult and often emotion-laden topics.

Ground Rules can be changes as needed. It is helpful to agree on how to use ground rules and what each one means. It is beneficial for the Committee to develop a team mindset that is in agreement with the ground rules. Agree that everyone is responsible for helping each other.

We started with the following:

- Assume good intent.
- Approach statements and questions with curiosity.
- Allow for all voices. Everyone will be heard. (Ask the quietest person for their thoughts).
- Don't interrupt.
- Focus on common interests. (Bettering Aberdeen)
- State views, ask genuine questions.
- Share all relevant information.
- Use specific examples. Agree on what words mean.
- Explain reasoning and intent.
- Focus on interest not on positions.
- Test assumptions and interpretations.
- Jointly discuss next steps as a team.
- This should be a safe place.

- Cold Weather Shelter Location. Ruth Clemens and Mayor Schave were at the County Commissioner's workshop 11-2 to discuss the two proposals they had received for hosting a County funded cold weather shelter in Aberdeen. One proposal was from the Moore Wright Group and that was tabled. The other was from Chaplains on the Harbor who was investigating hosting a shelter in the basement of the Methodist Church at Broadway and E 2nd. The proposed shelter would host at least 35 beds and serve meals.

County Commissions agreed Chaplains was running a working shelter out of Westport but could not approve the Aberdeen location without hearing from the City. A few citizens spoke out against the shelter being in Aberdeen, particularly in a residential neighborhood near schools.

There are two questions the City Council needs to decide.

1. Approve or not approve a County funded cold weather shelter at the Methodist church.
2. Approve or not approve a County funded cold weather shelter within city limits.

Debi Pieraccini said the Committee should recommend to Council that there should not be a County funded cold weather shelter located in Aberdeen.

Kacey Ann Morrison commented the Commissioners should go back to the drawing board.

Patrick McDaniel mentioned it has been several years since the Armory building burned down in 2018 and does not think the location is suitable for a cold weather shelter and that despite the proposal saying the shelter will have a low impact on the neighborhood, he thinks it would be huge. He does not have much faith that addicts can and will follow rules. Bad people need punishment; sick people need treatment.

Kati Kachman said residents are concerned and she would like to see a comparison that showed what worked and what didn't for last year's shelter downtown.

Liz Ellis offered the perspective that both Amazing Grace Lutheran Church and the Methodist Church have been used as cold weather shelters as allowed by State Law (RCW 35A.21.360). Rules can and must be enforced for the safety of all and any shelter needs to communicate well with neighbors. Chaplains has done a good job of this at their Westport site.

Mayor Schave said he didn't want a cold weather shelter in Aberdeen

A vote was called for the question: Should a County funded shelter be located on Broadway at the Methodist Church? 4 voted NO, 1 Voted YES

A vote was called for the second question: Should Aberdeen host a County funded shelter with stipulations this year?

3 Voted NO, 2 Voted Yes.

On behalf of the Committee, the Chair will recommend to City Council that there should not be a County funded shelter in Aberdeen this year.

- Laina Moore didn't have time to give an update and she will work up a flow chart for how the police funded navigator program works.
- The Chair asked all committee members to watch the YouTube interview with Malibu, CA Mayor Bruce Silverstein. This is just over 36 minutes long. Mayor Silverstein offers his interpretation of Martin v. Boise and his approach to homelessness in his town of 10-12,000.

Next Meetings of the Homeless Housing Committee shall be on the first Tuesday of the month, in person. This puts our next meeting December 6th in the conference room, 3rd floor of City Hall.