

Metropolitan Homelessness Commission
February 2, 2018, 9:30 - 11am
Howard Office Building
700 2nd Avenue South, 37210

Present: Charlotte Peacock, Theresa Skiles, Wendell Segroves, Bob Freeman, Charles Strobel, Paula Foster, Marvin Cox, Angie Thompson, Adriane Harris, Renee Pratt, Tim Leeth, Freddie O'Connell, Mina Johnson, Norman Humber, Liz Allen Fey, John Krenson, Treva Gilligan, Rod DeVore

Staff: Judy Tackett, Abigail Dowell, Jessica Ivey, Deon Trotter, Joseph Parker, Nicole Williams, Sunni Brimsy, Lisa Ricketts, Sally Besuden, Troy Jenkins

Welcome & Roll Call

Liz Allen Fey welcomed everyone and conducted roll call.

Approval of Minutes

Bob Freeman makes a motion to approve minutes from November 3, 2017, Norman Humber seconded the motion. All approved.

Financial Report

Lisa Ricketts provided the financial report.

MHC/CoC Governance Vote on Intent to Move Forward with a Planning Council

- Liz Allen Fey reported on MHC/CoC vote:
Outlined in the vote includes
 - Increase voting members from 23 to 25
 - Increase members with lived experience from 3 to 5
 - Increase CoC elected members from 12 to 14
 - This does not limit the potential of mayoral appointments with lived experience.
 - This would weigh the number of people elected vs. the number of people appointed
 - 14 elected members, 8 mayoral appointments, 3 council members
 - Increase number of non-voting members: 1 representative from THDA, and 1 representative from Metro Legal
 - 14 elected, 11 appointed total
 - More information regarding the Planning Council and task force minutes can be found at www.coldweathernashville.com

Questions were taken at this time

- Tim Leeth suggested to reduce the overall number of mayoral appointments to 6.
- Paula Foster reminded it's about who is representing what, and having people at the table who can make things happen- to have enough representation across the community to make things happen.
- Liz Allen Fey that we are voting to keep moving forward, not on an ordinance and there should be a draft ordinance to vote on in March.

An announcement was made that the next Governance task force meeting is on Monday February 5th, from 1-3 pm at Lentz Public Health Center.

Freddie O'Connell made a motion for the intent to move forward with the Planning Council model, Paula Foster seconded the motion. All approved.

Director's Report

Judith Tackett reports on policies and procedures for approval:

- **Metro Homelessness Commissioner Stipend**
Stipend pays \$100 per meeting for meetings where attendance is required; commissioner must be present at the meeting to receive the stipend. Commissioner must be a metro vendor.

There was a move to strike "starting in November 2017," statement stricken from the policy.
- **Homelessness Commission NES payment**
Freddie O'Connell asks if this is independent from How's Nashville fund
Judith Tackett states that they are just paid differently using NES gift certificates as opposed to metro pledges.
Can cover up to \$1000 total move in costs, so no specific amount set for electric, can be up to \$1000 per household.
- **How's Nashville Financial Assistance**
Available to assist with security deposit, first month's rent, rental arrears
Charles Strobel inquired about process for paying back debt
Judith Tackett explains that a unit has to be identified and if housing navigators have exhausted all other resources to pay the debt, MHC can cover up to \$1000.
Tim Leeth asks if the \$1000 limit is part of the policy
Judith Tackett explains that it is not because there is some flexibility on a case by case basis
Liz Allen Fey asks how \$1000 became the threshold

Judith Tackett explains that it was calculated based on the average costs of deposits, and the average costs paid to move someone in (usually between \$600-700)
There was a move to strike the word “strict” regarding eligibility criteria, “strict” was stricken from the policy.

- **Annual Bus Pass Policy**

Metro Homelessness Commission is currently implementing the “Drive to End Chronic Homelessness One-Year Pilot Plan.”

Commission has up to 500 yearly bus passes to distribute to individuals who meet the criteria.

Paula Foster moved to accept these policies.

Freddie O’Connell seconded the motion.

All approved.

- Judith Tackett reports on data from the Drive to End Chronic Homelessness program. Nicole Williams elaborated on the data concerning disabling conditions and how that data is collected from housing navigators. Individuals are currently reporting the one that is the greatest barrier to housing
The question was asked what metric will be used to determine if the program is successful and if it will continue?
Judith states housing placement overall, but are likely not in that place to look at housing as a measure of success, states that qualitative data will be more helpful
If the pilot is successful, we can look at if it makes sense to expand eligibility criteria
- Judy gave a cold weather update and reported on cold weather data regarding bed utilization.

Discussion

Bob Freeman and Freddie O’Connell discussed the overflow shelters rotating location and the potential barriers that creates, and the implications of metro building and staffing an overflow shelter. It was decided to create an extreme weather task force to continue the conversation and movement towards action year-round as opposed to only during cold months. Bob Freeman and Freddie O’Connell will co-chair the task force, with Wendell Segroves, Renee Pratt, Tim Leeth, Norman Humber, Charles Strobel and Theresa Skiles volunteering to serve on the task force. The goal of the task force will be to provide informed recommendations to the city about how to address extreme weather exposure for the most vulnerable citizens in Davidson County.

Liz Allen Fey asked commissioners to extend the meeting 5 minutes beyond 11 am to allow for public input. All agreed.

Public Input Session

Public comment was taken at this time.

- Howard Allen stated that the commission needs to build relationships with each church within a 5 mile radius of downtown in order to better shelter those on the streets, and that individuals experiencing homelessness need to be invited to council meetings to speak and share their stories.
- Samuel Lester from Open Table Nashville stated that there is a role for the commission beyond having meetings and being behind the scenes. Samuel asked why the commission had not yet come with reports about the housing crisis and lack of winter shelter and funding. Samuel also shared that OTN has been surveying those on the street and 81% of people surveyed stated they “won’t ever” go to the mission. Samuel reminded the commission of the logistical barriers to Room in the Inn, including the location, transportation to and from, and the hours available.
- Steve Ryder read over the social services code of ordinances and expressed concern regarding the stipends, citing a statement that says that “members shall serve without compensation.” He stated that if a report comes out next month that indicates that stipends were provided, he intends to file a formal complaint.
- Ingrid McIntyre from Open Table Nashville thanked the commission, the mission, and expressed thanks for acknowledging that this is an emotional issue. Ingrid shared a story about one of her outreach workers to impress the urgency of the situation.

The agenda will be completed at the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 11:05 am.