

Metropolitan Homelessness Commission
Executive Committee Meeting
March 3, 2017
Sonny West Conference Center, Howard Office Building
700 2nd Avenue South, Nashville

Present: Liz Allen Fey, chair; Renee Pratt, Wendell Segroves, Steven Samra, Paula Foster, Mina Johnson
Staff: Judith Tackett

Minutes

Liz Allen Fey appointed Paula Foster and Mina Johnson and they agreed to serve on the executive committee.

Approval of Minutes:

Wendell Segroves made a motion to approve the minutes from the Feb.-14 executive committee meeting and Steven Samra seconded. All approved.

Meeting Preparation:

Liz Allen Fey went over the agenda of the full Commission meeting. She said she plans to hold a guided conversation around governance. The focus would be on two questions:

- a. Who really needs to be sitting around this table?
- b. What would be the authority around this group?

She said what we keep hearing is frustration from this body, the Commission, of having no authority. Ms. Fey said that the Commission actually just absorbs things. She further stated with the Continuum of Care voting on a new Charter likely in May, the conversation of the purpose of the Commission and its membership was relevant.

She referenced the recommendations by Cloudburst, the HUD Technical Assistance provider to MDHA, and said it was important for the Commission to discuss where the Commission sees itself being.

The discussion at the full meeting will be started with Judy Tackett giving a brief history of the Commission on where we've been, where we are now, and where we need to go. Everyone agreed that where the Commission is right now was just not acceptable. However, the group also recognized that there are a lot of opportunities right now.

Steve Samra said the How's Nashville campaign gave the Commission and Nashville's community a sense of the opportunity to end homelessness. He further said that people now recognize that we cannot sustain what we're doing moving forward.

In terms of the right composition of the Commission, Liz Allen Fey said that she views herself as a placeholder through this transition. Paula Foster says her frustration was that the Commission has listened, given advice and some guidance, but in terms of what it can actually do, it feels very limited in its current form. She said she would like to see something happen. The question is what can we do?

The question was raised of the current structure under Metro Social Services and what the Metro Social Services Board of Commissioner's overview over the department was. Renee Pratt responded that the MSS Commission is a governing body with a 5-year membership. Currently there are 7 members who vote on any decision, recommendations, budget, policies, and function of the MSS department. The Metro Homelessness Commission reports up to that body.

Liz Allen Fey said that at one point, there would likely be an ordinance change. Steven Samra recommended that the Commission take a look at similar bodies around the country and see who is represented on there in terms of membership.

One of the near future decisions that will affect the Commission structure is the possibility that the Commission and the CoC governance board unite.

At 9:30 am, the meeting was adjourned.