

**Metropolitan Homelessness Commission Meeting
July 7, 2017**

Minutes

Meeting called to order at: 9:30am

Present: Liz Allen Fey, chair; Renee Pratt, Freddie O'Connell, Mina Johnson, Tanaka Vercher, Wendell Segroves, Charles Strobel, Erik Cole, Rod DeVore, Angie Hubbard, Marvin Cox, Josh Lee (Metro Legal),
Staff: Judith Tackett, Jessica Ivey, Deon Trotter, Sally Besuden, Troy Jenkins, Joseph Parker,

Meeting Called to Order at: 9:37am

Welcome and Roll Call

Liz Allen Fey completed roll call. There was no quorum (off by one commissioner).

Financials

Judith Tackett presented the financials in place of Lisa Ricketts. She said the reporting period was through the end of May 2017. Everything was in line. The final report of fiscal year 2016/17 will be given at the August Commission meeting.

Liz Allen Fey explained that if the Commission does not reach a quorum, there would have to be a called meeting so that the director position could be approved. Wendell Segroves voiced his frustration with not having a quorum. Liz Allen Fey said some people were on vacation. Judith Tackett said that originally there was no meeting in July because of the holidays. This July meeting was called at the last meeting in June.

Governance Discussion

Liz Allen Fey gave an update of where the governance discussions stand. She reported that she presented the proposal of the Metropolitan Homelessness Commission to enter into discussions with the CoC Governance Board to consider blending the two groups. She first went to the CoC Governance Board, then to the full CoC membership meeting.

The CoC Governance Board agreed to the proposal based on the feedback from the full CoC membership.

Ms. Fey reported that a combined task force was formed and the first meeting will be on Tuesday, July 11, 10 am at the offices of Metro Social Services. The representatives of this task force are the executive committee members of the Metropolitan Homelessness Commission – Liz Allen Fey, Renee Pratt, Wendell Segroves, Paula Foster, Mina Johnson – and the following CoC Governance Board

members – Erik Cole, Rachel Hester, Trish Davis, Catherine Knowles, Cara Robinson, and Daryl Murray.

Public Input

There was no public comment at this time.

Housing Nashville Report Presentation & Public Input

Erik Cole introduced Adriane Harris, director of the Mayor's Office of Affordable Housing, and Morgan Mansa, executive director of the Barnes Fund.

Ms. Harris presented the Housing Nashville Report and solicited Q&A from the Commissioners and people attending the Commission meeting. Ms. Mansa recorded the feedback session.

Moment of Silence

Liz Allen Fey read the names of people who had experienced literal homelessness and who passed away since the June 2 meeting that our community is aware of.

Council Lady Tanaka Vercher joined the Commission meeting.

Announcements

Liz Allen Fey declared that the Commission now has a quorum and said there were a couple of items under the announcements including the director search and the approval of the minutes.

Approval of Minutes of June 2, 2017

Wendell Segroves made a motion to approve the minutes, Freddie O'Connell seconded the motion. All approved.

- **Director Search**

Liz Allen Fey explained that a director search was conducted with Renee Pratt, Wendell Segroves, Mina Johnson, Charlotte Peacock and Liz Allen Fey as the search committee. Six competitive candidates were interviewed.

At this point, staff was asked to leave the room to allow for Commission deliberation.

Staff was called back into the room and Judith Tackett was announced as the director of the Metropolitan Homelessness Commission.

Judith Tackett thanked commissioners for their trust and said she will share the documents she shared with the search committee, which includes a progress report through her interim director position, a 30, 60, 90-day proposal plan, and a vision plan prioritizing goals for FY2018.

Liz Allen Fey said that now left an open position for the assistant director. She suggested that the panel would continue to support the director in her decision to fill that position.

Public Input Session

Howard Allen congratulated Judith Tackett on the position. He then alerted commissioners of the situation that when people leave their bags at Church Street park, Metro staff (police) are picking them up even though the person only left for 5 minutes. He said people did not have the means to go to Police Properties to go get their bags. They needed bus passes. He also spoke of an encampment that is being shut down with Open table Nashville trying to slow down the process. Mr. Allen said he wanted to take Council members out on the streets.

Adam Ries of the Downtown Partnership said leaving bags unattended was an issue based on Homeland Security requirements. He reported on a specific situation that had included his company and was distorted by a few people. And how in fact, he was involved in assisting that person. He also said that in regard to leaving bags, they get stolen if they were left unattended. He asked everyone to stop pointing finger at each other. We have to work together.

Wendell Segroves responded to Mr. Ries that he understood what he was saying, but there was a particular Metro officer who targeted people. Mr. Ries recommended that they contact the Central Precinct to report specific incidences.

Further public discussion was focused on Downtown benches being removed and other issues where people experiencing homelessness feel harassed. Erik Cole pointed to the Mayor's Interdepartmental Council on Homelessness, which is a forum where issues like these are discussed. Steve Reiter said, housing is important, but nobody should pick up anyone's bag. There needed to be some sensitivity to that. Wendell Segroves stated that his focus was on housing and also to help make live easier for people who are still living outdoors.

Judith Tackett said issues like these were service issues, and she urged people not wait until a Commission meeting to bring them to her attention. She said, "We don't need to wait a month for a Commission meeting." Mr. Tackett then urged the Commission to look at its role, committee roles, and the director's role.

Liz Allen Fey said it may time to look at the agenda and how it was set up.

Freddie O'Connell brought up the budget and the additional resources in it to assist with addressing issues of homelessness through additional funds for affordable housing and bus passes.

Adjournment at 11:28am