

Metropolitan Homelessness Commission
Executive Committee Meeting
8:30am, Dec. 14, 2016
East Park Community Center
600 Woodland Street, 37206

Meeting Minutes

Present: Liz Allen Fey, Renee Pratt, Kirby Davis, and Wendell Segroves

Staff: Judith Tackett, Deon Trotter, Lesley Head, Jessica Ivey, Sally Besuden, Troy Jenkins

Welcome

Liz Allen Fey opens the meeting and welcomes everyone.

Budget Report

Lisa Ricketts reports expenses in line with budget. Review period through 11/30/16.

Approval of Minutes

Wendell Segroves makes motion to approve minutes on 11/4/16 and 11/21/16; Kirby seconds approval.

Cold Weather Report

The Homelessness Commission is still paying for a cold weather coordinator who works closely with Room In The Inn and oversees the texting system, monitors bed projections and temperatures weekly, and puts occupancy rates together. Renee Pratt appreciates the “cold patrol”. Ms. Pratt reports they’ve hired an overflow shelter coordinator. City will open an overflow shelter if current shelters reach 90% capacity and/or temperatures are deemed extreme enough to warrant an overflow shelter based on bed predictions. OTN doing a lot of canvassing. Ms. Fey asked Ms. Pratt if anyone is turned away; Ms. Pratt reports that no one is turned away from cold weather shelter beds to her knowledge. 250 cold weather cards have been distributed across community. Ms. Fey asks what the N.O.T.E. is noticing in their canvassing; Sally Besuden reports seeing a variety of people including a lot of couples. Judy Tackett reports that police are checking on people that are street homeless very late at night (i.e., those that are OK staying outdoors at 9pm may be willing to go in at 2am).

Governance Discussion

JT reports “design team” now Steering Committee has been formed. How’s Nashville leadership meeting felt their voice needed to be there. Matt Preston with Catholic Charities will represent How’s Nashville in those steering committee discussions. Erik Cole will attend next How’s Nashville meeting. Liz recommends building the agenda for the meeting on 1/13/17. Liz Allen Fey will reach out to Erik Cole since he’s the point person with Cloudburst. Tomorrow there’s a CoC General meeting where Suzie Tolmie will update membership what is going on with TA. JT

recommends having more Commission meetings. Liz Allen Fey recommends having monthly commission meetings so that we're providing right mechanism for decision-making. Others support moving to monthly meetings. Put on agenda for January meeting to increase frequency of commission meeting. Possibly skip meetings in July/Dec. Liz Allen Fey proposes that we need to get the commission to a "strategic level". JT reports that her message while in interim role is focusing on ending Veterans homelessness; and focus on community data.

Housing Discussion

Number of people placed in housing last month (work is still in progress). Deon reports should have numbers soon. 10-12 agencies report housing placements. Deon reports that most of your transitional programs don't report housing placements to MHC.

Kirby thinks we need to go to Mayor to propose a tax increase that would provide \$20 million annually so we can create housing market rate voucher program and whatever entity ends up governing should be in charge of this. Exec membership supports this proposal to the Mayor. Liz Allen Fey and JT will set up next steps with the Mayor's Office. Renee Pratt reports having a budget meeting tomorrow morning with the Asst Dir of Finance and recommends moving this proposal forward there; need further consultation before presenting this proposal, even informally, to Finance. What are other cities doing? What are the pitfalls? Discussion ensued. Deon Trotter to research other cities using similar models.

Memorial service this Saturday at 8:30am. All commissioners welcome.

Library Discussion

JT reported on 3 library discussions. Liz Allen Fey reported that the audience doesn't necessarily care about Housing Crisis Resolution System – greater focus on what's happening today, tomorrow. JT recommends reaching out to neighborhoods and changing locations of discussions.

Liz Allen Fey adjourns meeting at 9:50am.