

COMMUNITY HOMELESSNESS ADVISORY BOARD

MONDAY, AUGUST 3, 2020, 9:00am

PRESENT:

Neoma Jardon, Member (via Zoom)
Marsha Berkbigler, Member (via Zoom)
Oscar Delgado, Member (via Zoom)
Kristopher Dahir, Member (via Zoom)
Ed Lawson, Member (via Zoom)

ABSENT:

Bob Lucey, Member

The Community Homelessness Advisory Board convened at 9:03 a.m. via Zoom webinar online. Following the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of our Country, the Clerk called the roll and the Board conducted the following business:

AGENDA ITEM 3: Public Comment.

There was no response to the call for public comment.

AGENDA ITEM 4: Approval of the August 3, 2020 meeting agenda.

On motion by Member Delgado, seconded by Member Dahir, which motion duly carried on a 5-0 vote, it was ordered that Agenda Item 4 be approved.

AGENDA ITEM 5: Approval of minutes of the July 6, 2020 meeting.

On motion by Member Delgado, seconded by Member Lawson, which motion duly carried on a 5-0 vote, it was ordered that Agenda Item 5 be approved.

AGENDA ITEM 6: Board presentation, discussion, and possible action to accept the update on the Built for Zero initiative progress and next steps including input on the regional homelessness solutions matrix. Dana Searcy, Washoe County.

Senior Management Analyst Dana Searcy conducted a PowerPoint presentation via Zoom, a copy of which was placed on file with the Clerk. She reviewed slides and discussed there are many great ideas in the community, but not one direction as a whole. Our community has a need to address homeless solutions collectively. Progress will come from a collective efforts. Regional Effort to Address Homeless matrix is included in the meeting materials for review. This is a draft that is to be frequently updated as many other areas are still needed, like mental health among other services.

This document is intended to allow for setting priorities. The Built for Zero (BFZ) is a piece of this solution. Ms. Searcy noted there are notable gaps in the plan and in our community. For example, we do not have a shelter for adult couples without

children. This have been identified as a need, but resources have not been found. Ms. Searcy indicated she is looking for feedback on the matrix and will be working each jurisdiction for updates and improvements going forward. Next steps include a complete housing inventory and eligibility and completion of a website and community dashboard. We hope to share the results at the September meeting.

The initial momentum for the BFZ has started to slow based on competing needs and resources. The need to address homeless is more important than ever. We recommend that you use regional efforts to address homeless as a regional plan.

Chair Jardon asked if the website is live, Ms. Searcy indicated it is not ready yet but is hopeful in September it will be ready. Member Dahir commended the regional efforts and asked how people can continue to be involved. Ms. Searcy recommended they may email her directly and then once the website is launched, the community will be able to see each contact for the best fit based on the area of interest.

Member Berkbigler asked how much work is being pulled away from this to COVID efforts. Ms. Searcy indicated workload and tasks are always changing and COVID was the preliminary focus for quite some time, but we are starting to see transitions and BFZ does not have dedicated resources and falls to existing staff. Additional projects require additional time that is challenging to prioritize and we find within each jurisdiction there are individual tasks that must be addressed. BFZ is typically the first project to be delayed to more pressing issues, like moving the men from the Reno Events Center (REC) for example.

Chair Jardon commended staff for their time and efforts of moving the men from the REC with very little time. Chair Jardon confirmed there were no further comments from the board or public comment on the item. No action was taken on this item.

AGENDA ITEM 7: Update on homeless shelter capacities and longer term solutions, Arlo Stockham, Acting Assistant City Manager, City of Reno

Mr. Stockham identified the Point In Time Count found nearly 1,000 people in need of sheltering. Prior to COVID our shelter capacities were unable to provide sheltering for all persons in need, now the need is even higher. The new shelters under construction are a benefit to the unsheltered community, but the overall total beds and operations are not allowing coverage for the need. Near term priority is one piece of the BFZ plan is expediting a larger shelter. There are some COVID monies available for this, but often location is a challenge. We will need seven acres or more for sufficient space.

Member Delgado asked questions regarding the dramatic change in transitional housing. Mr. Stockham stated the changes were due to a change in description. Monica Cochran stated last year people were categorized as sheltered, but should not have been, so the correction this year skews the numbers. This is corrected going forward but was incorrect in previous years. Transitional numbers also dropped as one institution declined to submit their numbers and have changed the

category of services they provide.

Chair Jardon indicated this is a draft version and is hopeful future amenities provide for reduced barriers to allow people to enter the shelter. No further questions were asked.

There was no public comment and no action was taken on this item.

AGENDA ITEM 8: Presentation, discussion, and possible action on the interim shelter budget, located on East Fourth Street, Arlo Stockham, Acting Assistant City Manager, City of Reno

The interim shelter is scheduled to go live on Wednesday as we are transitioning out of the REC after being given notice to vacate. The new short term emergency shelter is nearing completion and we are hopeful it will shelter 175 persons. Our Place campus is almost ready for women and children. This is not a long term solution but it will address the need short term, during COVID. The final budget numbers are similar to existing costs at REC, expecting an increase of approximately \$65,000 per month. New shelters provide day use areas with shade and 24 hour armed security. These are critical services to be provided. New costs were the lease and shade structures, and we have found savings in showering options.

Chair Jardon asked how long we anticipate this short term emergency solution to be in place. Mr. Stockham stated four months. Member Berkbigler asked as to where the permanent shelter may go. Mr. Stockham stated the Governor's Bowl is large enough to house everyone, but is not the only option and staff is still exploring other options. Berkbigler asked if something in town has higher incentive for people to stay at the shelter. Mr. Stockham said yes, and there are only particular areas in Reno where shelters are permitted. The industrial zones are permitted but have less services available.

Chair Jardon indicated her appreciation of the work from staff and commented the location is always the challenge as for many years we have found that to be an issue, and Reno has been asking for any other partners to come forward with potential land or locations to no avail.

Member Lawson asked why four months is the plan for this site and not longer. Mr. Stockham stated the Fourth Street site is not an ideal long term location and we are hopeful we can identify a longer term site identified by then. The four months is not a defined eviction date, but if we plan to occupy the space for longer we will need to make improvements to the site, like heat, which will bring additional cost.

Member Delgado asked if VOA is providing programming at these sites. RISE and VOA are both providing services at the various locations. Delgado questioned if coordinated efforts are available for those staying at these sites, like internet, work force help and development. Mr. Stockham discussed services like food and other various services are being located nearby but not onsite.

Member Dahir inquired about the moving of people from REC to the new site and how they are notified. Mr. Stockham stated all users have been notified and there will be help directing and moving them the efforts are being managed by the VOA.

Chair Jardon asked if the Fourth Street site will be open 24 hours, food delivery logistics and a recap on the Governor's Bowl. Mr. Stockham discussed the Fourth Street location has a day use area, sleeping shelters are for sleeping at night, but are closed during the day for cleaning, and the food area is half block away. The Governor's Bowl is open as a park during the day with two shade structures for day use. Effectively, once this is set up, we will have two men's shelters: CAC and the Fourth Street site, both with sleeping and day use, and feeding sites.

Member Berkgigler had questions regarding the new permanent site for camping. Mr. Stockham stated that decision will need to be made later once we have a suitable site.

No action was taken on this item.

AGENDA ITEM 9: Presentation, discussion, and possible action on a unified regional approach to Truckee River clean-ups, sheltering, and other matters related to homelessness, Arlo Stockham, Acting Assistant City Manager, City of Reno

Mr. Stockham presented and identified the priorities for work will be on a long term shelter and work for ordinances to keep the river corridor safe. We are proposing a nine member taskforce be established with a very short timeline and focused work. It would include high level officials like City/County Managers, Attorneys, and Police Chiefs or designee. Ordinances need to be reviewed regionally and how they address camping. This group will help to compliment the BFZ efforts.

There was no public comment on this item.

There was a motion made by Member Dahir to create the taskforce and review ordinances, a second was made by Member Delgado, passing unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 10: Board members announcements, reports, and updates to include request for future board items.

Chair Jardon requested members who are on BFZ are sent the agenda and supportive materials so they may be included in the information. Member Dahir commented that Our Place is really coming along and would like an update from them, RISE, and VOA as we have not had a presentation from them recently. Chair Jardon agreed and also requested updates from the Tiny Homes as well.

AGENDA ITEM 11: Public Comment

City Clerk Turney stated public comment received after 4:00pm the business day prior to the meeting will be placed in general closing public comment. Comments

received prior the cut-off will be heard in opening general comment, or with their corresponding item.

Public comment was received from Iris Juhl-Pepard on behalf of One Truckee River concerned with long-term solutions and the impacts of the homeless community on the river.

Jeff Church submitted written comments concerned with costs of sheltering.

Jay Kolbet-Clausell submitted written comments requesting more agencies and community groups be included on the agenda

AGENDA ITEM 12: Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, on motion by Member Berkbigler, seconded by Member Delgado, which motion duly carried on a 5-0 vote, the meeting was adjourned at 10:06am.