

CITY OF OXNARD
COMMISSION ON HOMELESSNESS
MEETING MINUTES
February 1, 2021

On Monday, February 1, 2021, at 4:00 p.m. the Meeting of the Commission on Homelessness convened remotely via zoom. Peggy Rivera Chair called the meeting to order at 4:14 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

- a. Present: Peggy Rivera, David Littell, Ruby Durias, Yukio Okano, Rene Camper-Stewart
- b. Absent: Mayra Plascencia

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

- a. None

3. INFO/CONSENT

- a. Chair Rivera made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 7, 2020 meeting, second by Commissioner Durias. All approved and the motion passed.

4. REPORTS FROM STAFF

- a. Director's Report

A link to the video for this report was posted on the agenda. Emilio Ramirez answered questions from the Commission on Homelessness.

Ruby Durias: What is a VASH Voucher? Veteran Assistance Supportive Housing and it is Section 8 type voucher funded by the VA intended to provide housing for a homeless veteran.

Peggy Rivera: Are Mainstream Vouchers just for homeless persons only? No, these vouchers can be used for a disabled person who is exiting an institution.

Ruby Durias: How do people qualify for the rental assistance? Oxnard received 6.2 million for rental assistance from the COVID Stimulus package. Not a homeless program, but it is a program for those affected by COVID. State government is developing their own program and we will be working with them to see if we can coordinate with their respective allocations.

Ruby Durias: What plans are being made in regard to the HALACO encampment? The plan is to continue the biweekly outreach effort at the encampment for the next six months.

Temporary housing assistance program to be administered by a service provider in Oxnard was approved as well.

Peggy Rivera: How is the housing assistance going to be funded? From the CARES Act funding we received.

Yukio Okano: Do the mainstream vouchers pay rent or motel stays? How are they actually used? They pay rent the only change is the population that it is serving. It's rental assistance voucher like Section 8. The voucher gets issued to the participant and they identify a unit to live and the voucher pays the rent.

5. OLD BUSINESS

- a. SUBJECT: Project HomeKey Update - A link to the video for this report was posted on the agenda. Emilio Ramirez answered questions from the Commission on Homelessness.

Ruby Durias: Have we received any additional complaints from the Denny's owners? Yes, there is continuing conversations. They vary from concerns to who they pay rent to assignment of parking stalls, etc. Not so much of the homeless use. Challenges are a continuing work in progress. The conversations are among the private parties and are continuing logistics discussions.

David Littell: What mitigating steps are being taken so that deaths at the Vagabond don't occur in the future? Can't get into the details. The population in the Vagabond was a vulnerable population to COVID that had a predisposition to a condition that pre-existed their tenancy. The continuing effort is not going to change. Active support services, case management, pursuit of an attempt to provide security and stability to a population that is vulnerable to COVID and homeless at the same time will continue to operate.

Yukio Okano: Are the residents the same ones that have been there from project RoomKey? The roster is unknown, but we can assume so.

Yukio Okano: Do they get meals? There is a meal program on site.

- b. SUBJECT: Homeless Solutions Center Update - A link to the video for this report was posted on the agenda. Emilio Ramirez answered questions from the Commission on Homelessness.

Ruby Durias: Where are we now? The project is moving forward, it has received Planning Commission approval, design development review approval and we are preparing to present to Council in March. Land, funding commitments from the County, the City and it all goes to Council for consideration in March. We hope to apply for primary financing in July.

Yukio Okano: If all goes well, what is a reasonable construction start date? Spring of 2022, year and a half of construction period. Occupancy in the beginning of 2024.

6. NEW BUSINESS

- a. SUBJECT: Vacancies on the Commission on Homelessness
Three positions termed out December 2020 that need to be filled. Durias, Plasencia, vacancy left by Negrete. Durias is interested in continuing service. Leaves two vacancies to be filled.
- b. SUBJECT: Election of Officers
Durias moved that officers stay as they are and nominates Peggy Rivera as chair and Yukio Okano as vice-chair.
Rivera accepted. Okano accepted as well.
Peggy Rivera moved to nominate Okano as Chair and Camper-Stewart as vice-chair.
Camper-Stewart declined.

A vote was taken to vote Rivera and Okano as chair and vice-chair

Ayes: Littell, Rivera, Camper-Stewart, Durias, Okano

No:

Absent: Plasencia

- c. SUBJECT: Annual Meeting
Camper-Stewart made the motion to hold the annual meeting on February 27, 2021 from 10am – 2pm, second by Durias. Approved by all and the motion passed.

- d. SUBJECT: Proposed 90-day homeless shelter operation rule - A link to the video for this report was posted on the agenda. Emilio Ramirez answered questions from the Commission on Homelessness.

Peggy Rivera: Are we having this in the program? There was a proposal by planning staff to the planning commission that they impose a condition of approval of the special use permit where the proposal indicated a 90-day limit of stay at Second and B Navigation Center. The Planning Commission did not impose it and it was not included.

- e. SUBJECT: Client Housing Stability Plan - A link to the video for this report was posted on the agenda. Emilio Ramirez answered questions from the Commission on Homelessness.

Peggy Rivera: How many clients were affected by the COVID outbreak at the armory? First outbreak around Christmas. Canopy tent was set out next to the PAL for patients who were positive. PAL was used to treat exposed clients. Positive building is in the PAL tent has been taken down. Three people positive, 1 presumed positive as of late. No new cases have been reported.

Ruby Durias: Has there been any COVID deaths at the armory? No.

- f. SUBJECT: Concept of tiny home for homeless housing - A link to the video for this report was posted on the agenda. Emilio Ramirez answered questions from the Commission on Homelessness.

Ruby Durias: Is this only for homeless youth and farmworkers? That has not been determined, leaning to a conditional aged population.

Ruby Durias: When might this be completed? Completed by the end of 2022.

Ruby Durias: How will this be funded? Some City funding, but a variety of other sources.

7. ADJOURNMENT

5:21 PM