

CITY OF OXNARD
COMMISSION ON HOMELESSNESS
DRAFT MEETING MINUTES
March 7, 2022

On Monday, March 7, 2022 at 4:00pm the Meeting of the Commission on Homelessness convened remotely via Zoom. Chair Yukio Okano called the meeting to order at 4:07pm.

1. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

Present: Chair Yukio Okano, Vice-Chair Ruby Durias, Commissioners Rene Camper-Stewart, Alejandro Fregoso, David Littell, Jack Villa

Regrets/Not Present:

Staff members present: Emilio Ramirez, Jessica Petrillo, Karl Lawson, Christian Lopez

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

3. INFO/CONSENT

a. Minutes of Meeting on 7 February 2022

Motion to accept the Minutes of Meeting on 7 February 2022. Moved by Vice-Chair Durias, seconded by Commissioner Littell.

All in favor.

4. PRESENTATIONS

a. Turning Point (response pending)

Representative did not confirm attendance. This presentation will be rescheduled for a future meeting.

5. REPORTS FROM STAFF

a. Director's Report

Housing Director Emilio Ramirez provided a report on the following:

- 2nd and B
- Former Vagabond Inn - Casa Aliento

- Halaco Superfund Site Encampment
- Oxnard Housing Authority Emergency Housing Vouchers
- Project Homekey - Round 2

Questions for Housing Director Emilio Ramirez are as follows:

Chair Okano: 2nd and B - Construction is supposed to start on June 8 and there is a building there now. Does that mean that the building will be torn down on June 8?

Construction means sitework. The specifics of the site work that will commence on June 8 is still in the works. Activity on site will be visible on June 8.

Commissioner Littell: 2nd and B - Is the facility planned to be functional in Fall of 2023 or is it going to take a few several months to get it furnished, staffed, and fully up to speed for sometime in 2024? In addition to being a homeless shelter, 2nd and B is also an apartment complex. The apartment complex is serving what is known as permanent supportive housing. The permanent supportive housing units should have an occupancy permitted in the Fall of 2023. The shelter that is on the ground floor is a tenant to that otherwise mixed use development. The tenant improvements would not start until the building is complete. The tenant improvements would take approximately four months to complete. After the tenant improvements are completed, the shelter can then occupy its space on the ground floor.

Commissioner Littell: 2nd and B - Would the shelter on K street close as soon as the 2nd and B shelter opens?

That is correct, the shelter would transfer from one site to the next.

Vice-Chair Durias: 2nd and B - Do you foresee any problems with meeting the date of June 8, the start of construction?

No, that requirement is very standard in the use of that finance construction.

Commissioner Littell: Halaco Site Encampment - Is the County (of Ventura) involved in this process too? What is their part to play at this point?

That is correct. The Oxnard Housing Department has an agreement with the County of Ventura Healthcare Agency and they are the ones doing the outreach at the encampment response program and also managing the non congregate shelter.

6. COMMISSION BUSINESS

a. Housing First Sub Committee Update

The Housing First Sub Committee will be repopulated once the vacancy on the Commission on Homelessness has been filed.

Housing Director Emilio Ramirez reported that the vacancy is still in place. The vacant seat on the Commission on Homelessness is to be appointed by Councilmember Basua. Housing Director Emilio Ramirez is open to take recommendations for the vacancy.

b. Safe Parking Sub Committee Update

The Safe Parking Sub Committee members include: Chair Okano, Vice-Chair Durias, Commissioner Littell, and staff support provided by Jessica Petrillo.

The Sub Committee last met on March 1, 2022. The next meeting will be held on April 12, 2022 at 11 am

The Safe Parking Sub Committee is focusing its efforts to assisting homeless individuals living in Recreational Vehicles (RVs). The Safe Parking Sub Committee is currently working on preparing a report of their findings to present to the Community Services, Public Safety, Housing & Development Committee, for their consideration to approve and to forward the item for City Council approval.

The next meeting of the Safe Parking Sub Committee will be on April 12 at 1:00 PM

c. Foul Weather Shelter Sub Committee Update

The Fall Weather Sub Committee members include: Chair Okano, Commissioner Littell, Commissioner Fregoso, and staff support provided by Karl Lawson.

The Foul Weather Shelter proposal was presented to the Commission on Homelessness and the Commission supported the idea. The Foul Weather Shelter is currently working on preparing a report to present to the Community Services, Public Safety, Housing & Development Committee, for their consideration to approve and forward the item for City Council approval.

The next meeting will be held on March 8, 2022.

Questions for the Foul Weather Shelter Sub Committee Update are as follows:

Commissioner Villa: What is the estimated number of people that are looking to be served?
Possibly 40-50 motel rooms, on a given night.

7. NEW BUSINESS

a. 2022 Goals of the Commission on Homelessness

A continued round table discussion of the Commission's goals for 2022

- Commissioner Littell
 - Informing the community on what is being done for the homeless population
 - Homeless Resource Fair

- Vice-Chair Durias
 - Longest Night Event as the Commission's signature event, with the goal of less homeless people dying.
 - Suggestion to have the Homeless Division as its own Department
 - Safe Parking for Rv's
 - Homeless Resource Fair
- Commissioner Fregoso
 - More collaborations with neighboring municipalities (i.e. Longest Night Event)
- Commissioner Camper-Stewart
 - Tiny Homes
 - Longest Night Event as the Commission's signature event
- Commissioner Villa
 - Tiny Homes
 - Educating the community on homelessness
- Chair Okano
 - Mission Statement: Play advocacy role and make recommendations about policy.
 - Establish concrete goals (i.e. Foul Weather Shelter, Safe Parking)
 - Expand Commission representation

Additional Questions

Commissioner Littell: Point In Time Homeless Count - Are the statistics in and can you share them with the Commission if they are?

The statistics aren't in yet. There is a rough estimate of 550 unsheltered individuals in Oxnard, which would be quite a larger jump since the last Point In Time Count. It is an early estimate and possibly aways off from the actual number. One of the steps that has not been taken is deduplicating the data, if there were multiple surveys done or multiple observations of the same person, the deduplication process would correct those numbers. The deduplication will be done by a partner of the County of Ventura. It is estimated that it will be a month or two before real final numbers are available.

Commissioner Villa: Point In Time Homeless Count - Are we going to be able to get an explanation on how the count is done and how they are going to come up with the number of homeless individuals?

Yes, there is information that was provided to volunteers by the County of Ventura and there will be more information that will be shared in the final Point In Time report. Housing Director Emilio Ramirez reported that when the data is final and public, an invitation will be sent to a Ventura CoC representative to present to the Commission. In the presentation, the Commission will be able to ask how the count is done, the method that they undertake, changes from last year's count, etc. The Housing staff should be able to bring forth that presentation in the next two to three months.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:32 pm.