

CITY OF OXNARD
COMMISSION ON HOMELESSNESS
DRAFT MEETING MINUTES
May 2, 2022

On Monday, May 2, 2022 at 4:00pm the Meeting of the Commission on Homelessness convened in person at the Council Chambers, 305 West Third Street. Chair Yukio Okano called the meeting to order at 4:13 pm.

1. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

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

Regrets/Not Present: Commissioners Alejandro Fregoso, Rafael Ochoa

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

Public Comment Speakers: Vince Barrons

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Vince Barrons - Former three time Chair of the Downtown District Board
Expressed that it has taken a long time to get something going in the City for homeless solutions shelter. Express that it was worthwhile to finally know that there is something happening to address homelessness in the Downtown area. Urges the Commission to speak regularly at the Downtown District Board Meetings. Stated that if the Downtown area is going to be the receipt of the homeless shelter, it would be nice to see that it is run correctly, so that the citizens of Oxnard can feel comfortable walking around Downtown.

3. INFO/CONSENT

a. Minutes of Meeting on 7 March 2022

Motion to accept the Minutes of Meeting on 7 March 2022, with the exception to amend the time of item 6. *Commission Business*, Subsection b. *Safe Parking Sub Committee Update* from 11am to 1 PM and under item 6. *Commission Business*, Subsection c. *Foul Weather Shelter Sub Committee Update* the sentence reading “*The next meeting will be held on March 8, 2022.*” to be deleted since the minutes are April meeting minutes.

Moved by Vice-Chair Durias, seconded by Commissioner Littell.

All in favor.

4. PRESENTATIONS

a. Turning Point

Representative was not able to attend. This presentation will be rescheduled for the Commission meeting of June 6, 2022.

5. REPORTS FROM STAFF

a. Director's Report

Housing Director Emilio Ramirez provided a report on the following:

- Homeless Solutions Center - 2nd and B
- Point In Time Count 2022
- Day Drop-In Center
- Homeless Encampment Response - Halaco
- New staff support to Homeless Assistance Division
- Appointment of Commissioner Ochoa - (introduction rescheduled for the next Commission meeting)

Questions:

Commissioner Littell: (Homeless Solutions Center) “The Project is going to be done in the Fall of 2023, the transition of the homeless shelter won’t be complete until 7 months later?” That is the expectation, the actual building should be complete by late Fall - early Winter of 2023. When that building is complete, the tenant improvements may start and those would require some time, post-completion of the building. The homeless shelter transition is expected somewhere in late Spring - early Summer of 2024. The apartment complex should be complete at the same time the building is complete, and there should be occupancy above the homeless shelter before the homeless shelter is in operation. The apartment units will be filled via a referral process with coordination with the Continuum of Care and their coordinated entry system (Pathways). The Oxnard residents do have priority to the units via a variety of different methods, none the least of which is the project based vouchers that the Oxnard Housing Authority is allocating to them.

Chair Okano: “Regarding the City Council on May 17th, that will be in person?” Yes it will. If Commissioners would like to participate, they can provide their public testimony in-person and virtually.

Commissioner Littell:(Point In Time Count 2022) “I believe that I read in the newspaper that the homeless count is at a 25 percent increase, is that in the ballpark of the Count?” Yes, and the number is

more significant for the sheltered population than the unsheltered population, imaginably as a result of COVID and the economy: inflation, cost of living, etc. The final report for Point In Time Count in Ventura County is expected to be available soon. If the Commission desires, the Housing staff will make an effort to have a member of the CoC make a presentation on the report once it becomes available.

Commissioner Okano: (Point In Time Count 2022) “Would it be possible to have that presentation at the next Commission meeting?” The report should be published and final by then, if so, yes. As soon as it is published, a member of the CoC will be invited to present.

Commissioner Littell:(Day Drop In Center) “Do they not currently provide that service (Day Drop In Service) at the K Street homeless shelter?” Yes, but not in an open day drop-in center kind of function.

Commissioner Villa: (Day Drop-In Center) “What are the specifics you are looking for in the Day Drop In Center: size of the building, location, part of the City?” Looking for an area that would accommodate the financial structure that replicates 2nd and B (Homeless Solutions Center). A need to identify a location that would be competitive for those funding sources.

Commissioner Littell: “What day of the week is the Salvation Army Operation and what would be different from the services provided at the Salvation Army (One Stop) and the Rescue Mission (6th Street)?” The Salvation Army operation is open weekly on Wednesdays. The Rescue Mission is a client specific operation. It provides housing, counseling services, and a variety of other services, including vocational. It is not open to the general public. The Day Drop-In Center would be open to the general public and although it would not have shelter overnight beds.

Vice Chair Durias: “If a homeless individual would need to wash their clothes, have a shower, etc. could they go to the Salvation Army One Stop Operation?” Yes, that is correct.

Commissioner Littell: (Homeless Encampment Response) “Can I safely say that there are no returnees to the Halaco site and has the fence that the State was going to prepare been completed?” Noone has returned to the slagpile site, there have been other encampments in the area, along Perkins and McWane, that the Outreach team and Police Department have been responding to continuously. The EPA is still in the process of working to repair the fence.

6. COMMISSION BUSINESS

a. Safe Parking Sub Committee Proposal Attached

Recommendation: Approval

The Safe Parking Subcommittee members include: Commissioners Durias,Littell, & Okano. Jessica Petrillo serves as staff support.

Questions:

Commissioner Villa: “Did the Committee discuss anything having to do with liability for those entities that would like to participate; non profit organizations?” Yes, this information is under the section for Proposed Budget & Funding, Liability and Insurance Cost.

Motion to accept the recommendation of Safe Parking Sub Committee Proposal. Moved by Commission Villa, and seconded by Commissioner Camper-Stewart.

All in favor

b. Foul Weather Shelter Sub Committee Update

Recommendation: Receive and File

The Foul Weather Shelter Sub Committee members include: Commissioners Fregos, Littell, & Okano.

An effort will be made to propose the Foul Weather Shelter to the Community Services, Public Safety, Housing and Development Committee on May 24th or June 7th City Council Meeting.

7. NEW BUSINESS

a. 2022 Goals of the Commission on Homelessness

Recommendation: Approval

A commitment to the mission statement generated by the Commission on Homelessness in April, 2021.

Educational efforts

- Educate the community about the causes and consequences of homelessness
- Keep the community informed about what is being done to address homelessness. This can be done through the city website, media such as the Ventura County Star, and in-person events such as festivals and fairs.
- Help organize and participate in events such as homeless resource fairs and a speaker series

Complete current subcommittee projects

- Safe Parking Subcommittee: complete recommendations for an RV-focused Safe Parking Program for Oxnard.
- Foul Weather Shelter Subcommittee: complete proposal for a foul weather shelter program for 2022-2023.

Continue the Longest Night event. Activate the Commission Longest Night Subcommittee this summer for planning of the event in December. This event brings together the Commission, city resources, the faith community, and the general Oxnard community. It communicates our common goal that there be fewer deaths among our homeless neighbors.

Consider establishing Commission subcommittees to address:

- Housing First model
- Education
- Innovative, alternative housing models, including “tiny” homes
- Grant writing, as opportunities arise

Commission activism

- Encourage Commission members to be involved with community programs that address homelessness
- Encourage Commission members to speak at City Council meetings and Ventura County Board of Supervisors meetings as needed

Increase collaboration of the Commission on Homelessness with efforts on homelessness by the City of Ventura, other municipalities, and the County of Ventura.

Questions:

Vice-Chair Durias: “(Homeless Resource Fair in Plaza Park circa 2019) Is that something that can be done again in the future and was it expensive to run?” Yes, it can be replicated, that resource fair was specific to Plaza Park. It involved an allocation provided by various providers including, non profit providers, the Oxnard Housing Authority, The Lighthouse Foundation, etc.

Motion to accept the recommendation of adoption of the 2022 Goals of the Commission on Homelessness. Moved by Commissioner Littell, seconded by Commissioner Villa.

All in favor.

b. Update on Bylaws

The current CAG Bylaws were adopted in 2016 and in December of 2019 there was a meeting of the various CAG Chairs to approve a new set of Bylaws and that group approved the new set of Bylaws. The new version of the Bylaws was approved by the Commission on Homelessness in February 2020. However, that version was not yet approved by the City Council. Due to the delays caused by COVID, the City Manager's Office called for a meeting of the CAG Chairs in March of 2022 to review the Bylaws, 3 years past. The City Manager's Office wanted to make sure that the CAG still felt that the new Bylaws from 2019 were still going to go forward to the City Council. Unfortunately, at the March 2022 meeting, the CAG Chairs were reviewing the wrong Bylaws. Subsequently, the Commission on Homelessness is still operating under the Bylaws of 2016.

c. Second and B Ground Breaking

Housing Director Emilio Ramirez provided the following report:

The groundbreaking for 2nd and B (Homeless Solutions Center) is going to start construction on June 8, 2022. The Housing staff is currently not actively working on an event for the groundbreaking, a recognition event. If the Commission chooses so, an effort to organize a recognition event for the groundbreaking can be made. Although it is not mandatory. A purpose of this event is to recognize all the organizations and individuals that contributed to the upbringing of the Homeless Solutions Center at 2nd and B. The site will later have a grand opening event.

This does not require a motion by the Commission. More information will be provided to the Commission in the near future.

d. Day Drop In Center Site Search

This item was spoken about in the Director's Update. A complete report will be provided at the next Commission meeting.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:53 pm.