

MINUTES
Commission on Homelessness
February 6, 2023

A. ROLL CALL/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

On Monday, February 6, 2023 at 4:00pm the regular meeting of the Commission on Homelessness convened in-person at the Oxnard City Council Chambers located at 305 W. 3rd Street, Oxnard, CA 93030. Chairman Yukio Okano called the meeting to order at 4:11pm.

Present: Alejandro Fregoso, Jack Vila, Rene Camper-Stewart, Ruby Durias (Vice-Chair), and Yukio Okano (Chair)

Regrets:

Staff Members Present: Emilio Ramirez, Housing Director; Jessica Petrillo, Homeless Assistance Program Coordinator; Christian Lopez, Commission Secretary

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. SUBJECT: Minutes of the meeting of November 7, 2022
RECOMMENDATION: Approve.
ACTION: Commissioner Durias moved approval as recommended. Commissioner Camper-Stewart seconded and the motion carried.
2. SUBJECT: Minutes of the meeting of December 5, 2022
RECOMMENDATION: Approve.
ACTION: Commissioner Durias moved approval as recommended. Commissioner Villa seconded and the motion carried.

C. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Lang Martinez – Comment on item not on the agenda: Mr. Martinez addressed his concerns about homelessness in the community.

D. REPORTS

1. SUBJECT: Presentation by Salvation Army
RECOMMENDATION: That the Commission receive and file a presentation from Denise Adams, Director of Social Services, on services that the Salvation Army provides to the homeless community.
DISCUSSION: This item was pulled from the agenda, as Ms. Adams was unable to be present at the February 6, 2023 meeting. This item will be agenized for a future Commission on Homelessness meeting.
2. SUBJECT: Update of homeless related activities from the Housing Director
RECOMMENDATION: That the Commission receive and file an update from the Housing Director on homeless related activities overseen by the Housing Department.

Housing Director Emilio Ramirez provided an update on the following items:

- 2nd and B Homeless Navigation Center
- Response to homeless encampments (5th & Harbor, Perkins Rd.)
- Identifying a site for ‘Day Drop-in Center’
- Recruitment for homeless program staff
- Casa Aliento
- Vanguard site
- Point in Time Count 2023

Comments:

Chair Okano: (Response to homeless encampments) Is there a time frame for this activity? No timeframe has yet been identified. Timing to response is pending on procuring funds for encampment abatement.

Chair Okano: (Response to homeless encampments) Are there any other significant encampments in the City, other than 5th & Harbor and Perkins Rd? There are other encampments in the City, but not to the scale of the others mentioned, i.e. Etting Rd., scattered vehicle encampments)

Commissioner Villa: (Response to homeless encampments) How much funds are anticipated to abate these encampments? Approximately \$500,000 to \$800,000.

Chair Okano: (Casa Aliento) What is the date that is anticipated to close the financing package for Casa Aliento. It will be completed before the deadline of May 20, 2023.

Chair Okano: (Casa Aliento) Are you at liberty to disclose what types of projects are proposed for the Vanguard site? Some proposals include permanent supportive housing, overnight shelter beds, detox center.

Commissioner Camper-Stewart: (Point in Time Count) Do we have a number calculated of the homeless individuals counted yet? No, the numbers are anticipated to be released in early April 2023.

E. COMMISSION BUSINESS

1. SUBJECT: Annual Meeting of the Commission on Homelessness

RECOMMENDATION: That the Commission file and receive an update on the Annual Commission meeting for 2023 calendar year.

DISCUSSION: The Commission discussed the date to hold the annual meeting of the Commission, which would require the election of Chair and Vice Chair for 2023.

ACTION: Commissioner Durias moved approval to hold the Annual Meeting of the Commission at the March 2023 meeting. Commissioner Camper-Stewart seconded the motion and the motion carried.

2. SUBJECT: Potential Annual Retreat of the Commission on Homelessness

RECOMMENDATION: That the Commission file and receive an update on the potential

2023 Annual Retreat of the Commission on Homelessness.

DISCUSSION: The Commission discussed the timeframe for a potential Annual retreat of the Commission on Homelessness

ACTION: Commissioner Durias moved approval to defer the Annual Retreat of the Commission after all vacate seats on the Commission have been filled. Commissioner Camper-Stewart seconded and the motion carried.

3. SUBJECT: Homeless Empowerment Labor Project (HELP) Vocational Program Proposal
RECOMMENDATION: That the Commission file and receive an update on the proposal for a vocational program for people experiencing homelessness in the City of Oxnard.
DISCUSSION: Housing Director Emilio Ramirez provided an update on the Request for Proposal for a vocation program for the homeless community in the City of Oxnard.

Comments:

Vice Chair Durias: Are there any businesses that have said that they are willing to hire possible program applicants? No, not yet. However, there as been discussions with businesses that are willing to respond to the RFP.

F. AD-HOC COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Housing First Ad-Hoc Committee:
Housing Director Emilio Ramirez provided an update on the progress being made to develop a proposal for a Housing First plan.
2. Foul Weather Shelter Ad-Hoc Committee:
Housing Director Emilio Ramirez provided an update on the progress being made by the Foul Weather Shelter Ad-Hoc Committee to deliver a proposal to for a Foul Weather Shelter to the City Council.
3. Safe Parking Ad-Hoc Committee:
Housing Director Emilio Ramirez provided an update on the progress being made by the Safe Parking Ad-Hoc Committee to deliver a proposal to for a Safe Parking Program to the City Council.

Comments:

Chair Okano: Are the requirements for the reviewal of the Foul Weather Shelter and Safe Parking Program proposals being imposed by the City Manager's Office? Yes, this is standard operating procedure and it is imposed by both the City Attorney's Office and the City Manager's Office.

Commissioner Villa: Is there a problem with the Safe Sleep Program proposal that interferes with this year's or next year's budget? This program would be funded by grant funds, not necessarily the City's General Fund. It is not foreseen that a delay is related to funding.

4. Longest Night Event Ad-Hoc Committee:

Chair Okano and Vice Chair Durias provided an update on the 2022 Longest Night Event in Oxnard.

G. REPORT OF THE COMMISSION SECRETARY

H. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

1. Commissioner Villa: Shared comments and thanked members of the community on successful efforts made to reunite a family member in Ukraine with her family in Ventura.
2. Vice Chair Durias: Shared comments and thanked the participants and sponsors for the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. event in the City.
3. Commissioner Camper-Stewart: Expressed her concerns for the need of the Commission's role to be more vocal and active in the community.
4. Commissioner Fregoso: Commended the Commissioners that attended the Longest Night Event
5. Chair Okano: Expressed his thoughts about his status on the Commission. Thanked and commended the members of the Commission. Expressed his concerns and frustrations that the work being done by the Commission is not being heard by the City Council.

I. ITEMS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION

Continued discussion for Annual Retreat meeting

Update on Vocational Homeless Program

J. ADJOURNMENT

At 5:34pm Chair Yukio Okano moved the meeting adjourn.

Christian Lopez, Secretary

Yukio Okano, Chairman