

MINUTES
Commission on
Homelessness March 6, 2023

A. ROLL CALL/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

On Monday, March 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 4:03pm.

Present: Alejandro Fregoso, Jack Villa, 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 February 6, 2023
RECOMMENDATION: Approve.
ACTION: Commissioner Villa moved approval as recommended. Commissioner Camper-Stewart seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

C. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Rachel Hernandez expressed her concerns about homelessness in Downtown and comments about the Navigation Center.

D. REPORTS

1. SUBJECT: Presentation by the City Attorney's Office on the Brown Act, Bylaws, and Powers and Duties of the Commission.
RECOMMENDATION: That the Commission receive and file a presentation from City Attorney's Office on the Brown Act, Bylaws, and Powers and Duties of the Commission.
2. SUBJECT: Presentation by Salvation Army
RECOMMENDATION: That the Commission receive and file a presentation from Denise Adams, Director of Social Services, on the services that the Salvation Army provides to the homeless population.
DISCUSSION: This item was postponed and will be presented at a future meeting.
3. 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 activities overseen by the Housing Department.
DISCUSSION: Housing Director Emilio Ramirez provided a report on the following topics: Response to homeless encampments (5th & Harbor, Perkins Rd.), Identifying a site for 'Day Drop-in Center', recruitment for homeless program staff,

E. COMMISSION BUSINESS

1. SUBJECT: Election of Chair and Vice Chair
RECOMMENDATION: That the Commission elect a Chair and Vice Chair to serve for 2023.
DISCUSSION: No Commissioners were elected to serve as Chair and Vice Chair for 2023. The election of Chair and Vice Chair will be deferred to a future meeting.
ACTION: No action taken.
2. SUBJECT: Potential Annual Retreat if the Commission on Homelessness
RECOMMENDATION: That the Commission receive and file an update on the potential 2023 Annual Retreat of the Commission on Homelessness.
DISCUSSION: This agenda item has been deferred for a future meeting or once all vacate seat on the Commission are filled.
ACTION: No action taken
3. SUBJECT: Homeless Empowerment Labor Project (HELP) Vocational Program Proposal
RECOMMENDATION: That the Commission receive and file an update on the proposal for a vocational program for people experiencing homelessness in the City of Oxnard.
DISCUSSION: The Request for Proposal (RFP) for the solicitation of services has been issued. The Housing Director will report to the Commission once further information becomes available.

F. AD-HOC COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Housing First Ad-Hoc Committee: The Housing Director provided a summary of processes that his being undertaken to continue the discussion of the potential Housing First plan.
2. Foul Weather Shelter Ad-Hoc Committee: The Housing Director provided a summary of the current standing of the agenda item to recommend a foul-weather shelter program to the City Council.
3. Safe Parking Ad-Hoc Committee: The Housing Director provided a summary of the current standing of the agenda item to recommend a safe parking program to the City Council.

G. REPORT OF THE COMMISSION SECRETARY

No items to report by the Commission Secretary

H. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

1. Commissioner Durias: Shared her appreciation for Chairman Okano service on the Commission and encourages members of the community that are interested in homeless services to serve on the Commission.
2. Commissioner Camper-Stewart: Shared her appreciation for Chairman Okano service on the Commission and would like to request that Commission receive more information about Housing Authority housing programs are available.

3. Commissioner Fregoso: Commends Chair Okano for his services on the Commission.

4. Commissioner Okano: Shared his appreciations for the privilege to serve the Commission and the accomplishments that were made while serving on the Commission. He also shared his appreciations to the members of the Commission, City staff, and the community for their support and dedication to homeless services.

I. ITEMS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION

J. ADJOURNMENT

At 5:25pm Chair Okano moved the meeting adjourn.

Christian Lopez, Secretary

Yukio Okano, Chairman