

HOST meeting
April 18, 2019
Clatsop College

DRAFT MINUTES

1. Approval of Minutes of January 30, 2019 meeting. David Reid/Tom Leiner. Unanimous.
2. Recap (Chief Spalding). There has been criticism that we're not moving fast enough. But the good work being done by the subcommittees in between meetings is where things are happening.
3. Homelessness activity (Chief Spalding, Officer Niki Riley). APD started tracking calls related to homelessness in 2018. In 2019 APD refined the stats to indicate aggressiveness. "Aggressive" = out of the ordinary - being confrontational with officers, not cooperating.

2018	349 total calls
2019 to date	319 total calls 24 aggressive calls

For 2019, averaging 2.9 calls/service/day = 1078 total calls projected = 309% increase over 2018

Officers generally don't have time to self-initiate these actions. The numbers are almost entirely calls for service, generally for noise, fighting, trespassing, alcohol, marijuana, welfare check. No stats on who is creating the need for service, but it's probably 30-40 specific people. There are a lot of new people on the streets. The behavior is definitely impacting the community. Over 75% of it is due to drugs and alcohol, evidenced by changes in behavior from lunchtime to 5pm or so.

Some particular trouble spots include the picnic tables by the American Legion and the Job Corps bus stop at 17th Street. The students don't feel safe there and staff has asked APD to move the people on who are camping in the bus stop, but current law makes that hard to do.
4. KOMO video "Seattle is Dying" (Chief Spalding). Discussion around the video:
 - Sheriff is looking at providing MAT (medically assisted treatment)
 - County is working with CBH and exploring opportunities at the new jail. There is no MAT for meth.
 - With a new jail people can be housed longer to connect with programs.
 - Most crime is stealing for drugs. Switzerland instituted free injection sites and virtually eliminated drug-related crime. (Secy note: Here's a recent report: <https://www.northcarolinahealthnews.org/2019/01/21/switzerland-couldnt-stop-drug-users-so-it-started-supporting-them/>)
 - There's legitimacy to the old saying "If you build it, they will come." Weather plays a role too, with more people seeking help and causing problems in spring and summer.
 - There's a reported 25% increase in student homelessness this year. The Warming Center saw an increase in the number of seniors seeking shelter.
 - Some people aren't ready for help of any sort, so services like the Warming Center are important.

- APD officers have access to virtually unlimited overtime to deal with homelessness challenges. Some officers aren't willing to take advantage of it. They're exhausted.

5. Clean Slate Program (Jonah Dart-McLean, subcommittee rep). Jonah met with Circuit Court Judge Cindee Matyas. She is open to a community service alternative at \$10/hour and to bargaining to eliminate debt. Her philosophy is that debtors shouldn't be able to simply walk away from their responsibility, so she is willing to explore alternatives. Jonah will submit a draft proposal at the next HOST meeting. Helping Hands is working to get data on their clients' debts and will select pilot individual(s) for the program. What is needed is a single agency to manage the program.

6. Employment subcommittee (Tom Leiner). Tom is working with a small subcommittee to connect people with jobs. They're mostly engaged in data collection now -- contacting VA services, Tongue Point, etc -- and have gotten three people part-time jobs.

7. 2019 Direction -- Recommendations (Chief Spalding).

Barry Plotkin has written with his ideas for recommendations to City Council:

- central daytime drop-in center
- ensure a safe Riverwalk
- decrease barriers to warming centers
- Clean Slate program
- Homeward Bound program
- review barriers in municipal code
- have a regulated encampment site
- transitional housing site
- 24/7 public toilets
- outreach team
- homelessness coordinator

Discussion followed with these suggestions & comments:

- A systematic review of what works, what's realistic
- A social worker
- All agencies have an outreach person. Maybe it's more coordination.
- Look for a grant to hire a coordinator.
- A Wellness Center where people can get physical and mental health needs met. Partner with CCA, etc., so there is one central place.
- Syringe exchange, with Outside In as model
- Insulate the downtown corridor; the economy there is fragile.
- More toilets.
- Portland Loo is \$100,000, plus connection fees.
- All public toilets are subject to vandalism, costing hundreds of thousands of dollars along the coast. Seaside has an 8am cleaning crew.

- City is perfect encatchment for dealers to homeless, who can't say No. Lots of dealing around the Labor Temple. Dealers use the planters around the library as drop-offs.
- Drug Task Force is on hiatus as all departments are understaffed.

Next meeting: June 27. Guest: Dan Bryant, Square One Villages

Respectfully submitted,
Cindy Price
May 30, 2019