

HOST General Meeting
December 4, 2018, 10:00am
Patriot Hall #207
MINUTES

1. Mayor LaMear opened the meeting by thanking Chief Spalding for his compassionate leadership, and Det. Hansen and the team who participated in the camp cleanup.

2. Approval of Minutes of October 8, 2018 meeting. David Reid moved, Raven Brown seconded. Unanimous.

3. Camp Cleanup Project (Chief Spalding). Partnerships made it as successful as it could be. The subcommittee was helpful in advice and direction, and the project moved forward after Council approved the amended ordinance prohibiting camping on City lands. The 24-hour notice was posted on a Friday at 9 separate sites, with information that the camps would be removed the following Tuesday. Some campers claimed disability and needing more time, so it was decided to wait to remove the camps until the following Friday, allowing for 7 full days' notice.

Why not leave the camps alone? There are complaints from residents, businesses, hikers. And, public safety. It's difficult to provide services to the campers in their steep, hilly, generally muddy areas. It's extremely difficult to even know where someone is living. There has been domestic violence and an instance of a rape among the campers. APD, AFD, Medix can respond quickly to the general area but then has to hike in from their vehicles, leaving resources behind and also taking limited personnel off the streets for lengthy periods.

In details: Garbage filled four large dumpsters -- 5.04 tons, \$1,028 in value -- donated by Recology. Personnel costs: Public Works \$2,375; APD \$1,285. Supplies \$1,018. Total: \$5,700.

Kenny Hansen: Vern Hall was liaison with the campers. Viviana Matthews from Clatsop Community Action and Cindy Price from the Astoria City Council were along to offer housing and other assistance to the campers. Almost all the campers had already moved on. We left two non-vacated camps alone. One camp was vacating as we came in; they left no trace. Everyone was pleasant and understanding. Some of the campers aren't ready to come in to housing; they'll move deeper into the woods. Two new campsites found across Marine Drive, behind the warehouses at 39th Street. This is private property that the owner will soon be clearing.

Elaine Bruce: Seven campers came in to CCA; three were referred to Helping Hands. We assessed them for need and eligibility to enter one of 15 housing programs. One couple never returned. This is normal for the progression of engagement.

Alan Evans: Helping Hands opened in Astoria on Wednesday before the Friday removal of the camps. Of the three referrals from CCA, two are still at Helping Hands. One needed a hip replacement, now scheduled, and will move into the re-entry program. One is moving to another city. We've not had to turn anyone away and we're almost at capacity now. The Seaside remodel will be completed this week, and we're working on some additional apartments.

Vern Hall: I camped there for five years. Not one thing was saved. Tents, bicycles, bicycle trailers -- all went into the dumpster. Went to CCA on Thursday, got an appointment on Friday. Was referred to Helping Hands. Went there and they said they weren't open and didn't help. The

camps were closed because one or two people were creating problems, and they're still running around.

Alan Evans: Vern talked to contractors who were outside the building, and didn't come inside where we would have provided help.

Kenny Hansen: We would have appreciated Vern identifying anything that should be saved during the camp cleanup.

Chief Spalding: Will check with Olney Gifford from Public Works about potential improvements if there is a Phase 2 for camp cleanups. Chief stated that more than required notice was given and the sites that were cleaned up were vacated and abandoned.

4. Clean Slate Program (Chief Spalding). This program allows people to dig out from their fines, generally through community service. Municipal Court Judge Kris Kaino is interested in fine forgiveness if the individual has met other requirements. Discussion about crimes of homelessness differing from other crimes; equity a principle that applies to more than those experiencing homelessness; whether this program is within the scope of HOST; whether Astoria Municipal Court has the infrastructure to follow people through their community service.

Subcommittee for follow-up: Alan Evans, Mary Docherty, Gabriella Korosi, Jonah Dart-McLean.

5. Guest speaker, Patrick Preston, Disabled Veterans Outreach (DVO) Program Specialist, Oregon Employment Department. Of homeless individuals, 17% are veterans, mostly from Vietnam war. They tend to live in places similar to where they were trained and fought: Vietnam vets are most comfortable in the woods; Iraq and Afghanistan vets in cities. The work is first to stabilize these individuals, then get them to come back. Some have been incarcerated, some are disabled. DVO reaches out to CCA, Goodwill, Camp Rilea, the Coast Guard. Work is in Clatsop and Tillamook Counties. Contact: patrick.c.preston@oregon.gov 503-325-4821 x227

6. Year in reflection (Chief Spalding). This is the ninth general meeting in the year since HOST first met. The meetings, in summary: (1) scope and goals; (2) scope, goals, laws, demographics; (3) demographics, breakout groups; (4) goals, guest speakers Joe Kramer and Todd Williams; (5) testimonials, APD response, GOBHI; (6) testimonials, small groups, law enforcement; (7) housing study; (8) testimonials, camping ordinance, camp cleanout subcommittee; (9) camp cleanout, clean slate, guest speaker Patrick Preston. The relationships and contacts that have been made are perhaps the most important outcome of HOST so far.

7. The future (Chief Spalding). Mayor-Elect Bruce Jones wants HOST to continue and has asked Mayor Lamear and Cindy Price to stay on if they'd like. Needs and goals:

Jarrod Karnofski: CMH needs to know who to call when the unhomed come. CMH has a five-year strategic initiative to address population health -- meaning, services for all.

Annie Martin: Need a 24/7 place to discharge people from the hospital or from jail.

Elaine Bruce: Need to keep people physically and psychologically safe.

Amy Baker: Project Fuse in Lane County -- housing first.

Mary Docherty: Need a 24/7 drop-in center.

8. Guest comments:

Bruce Williams (Warming Center): Camp cleanout may have taken us a big step back in building trust. Need better planning. Overall goal should be to give people as much chance to be housed as possible.

Melissa Johnstone (NW Seniors & Disabilities manager): This is a wonderful community but there are gaps. Two families are living in their vans after being wrongly evicted. There are no bottom bunks for the disabled in shelters.

Richard Elfring: Camp removal seems compassionate.

Vern Hall: Broke trust by not saving things during camp cleanout. Need day drop-in center.

Ron Maxted (Warming Center): See Square One Villages, Eugene.

9. Adjourned Noon.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Price

31 December 2018