

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

1. Mayor's Welcome. Arline Lamear encouraged the group to turn toward solutions.
2. Recap (Chief Spalding): HOST has been meeting since November. Do we truly understand the problems before coming up with solutions? The ultimate goal is to provide recommendations to City Council.
3. Approval of Minutes of April 16 meeting. David Reid moved, Sarah Lu Heath seconded. Unanimously approved.
4. Does the group want to hear more testimonials from people experiencing homelessness? Generally no, because the problems have been well described, but participation is always welcome.
5. Discussion of APD response: Most complaints to APD are from downtown businesses about vandalism and overnight parking. General preference among HOST participants for APD to enforce the laws as well as it can with the resources it has. There are exceptions. Discussion followed about "Helmet John" Wedell and "Moses." Concerns expressed about: businesses potentially serving those who are already intoxicated; APD responses balancing compassion for homelessness with protection of business and residential districts, and enforcing the laws; the and understanding both sides of a story before making judgments about the appropriateness of actions.
6. General discussion: HOST conversations have sometimes been repetitive and there is an urgency for action, but discussion has evolved from poo and pee to holistic considerations. The collaboration between agencies facilitated by these meetings is valuable and productive. For example: Helping Hands will include four medical detox beds in the Uniontown facility, as a direct result of the conversations in this group. This group won't solve homelessness, just as no other city has, but with patience and determination we can make progress.
6. GOBHI: Astoria Women's Supportive Housing (Amy Baker and Kate Allen)

GOBHI (Greater Oregon Behavioral Health, Inc) coordinates with Clatsop Behavior Health and other providers who accept the Oregon Health Plan. This project will provide four permanently affordable apartments and include health care, and family and children services. The apartments were foreclosed by Clatsop County for not paying taxes after a number of years.

Discussion: Oregon laws are unique and designed to help consumers, but the length of time it takes to foreclose on a property means banks don't devote many resources to the process. Meanwhile, properties quickly deteriorate in our weather. The City of Astoria maintains a list of derelict buildings which potential owners can peruse for possible rehab.
7. Group discussion.

Amy Baker: Is homelessness a choice? Do we punish or do we help? There is a fundamental belief that we want people to take care of themselves. Everybody wants to be part of a community. One of the

roots of the problems of homelessness is work. Amy has never met a client who didn't want to work, however psychotic the client. We are about helping people become contributing members of the community. Astoria has such a remarkable spirit of volunteering. We give back. Everybody deserves the opportunity to give back.

8. Small group discussions. (Participation as indicated at previous meeting; may have changed. Groups will report at next meeting.)

HEALTH CARE

Jarrold Karnofski
Arline Lamear
Mike McNickle

EMPLOYMENT

Angela Cosby
Cindy Price
David Reid

HOUSING

Kate Allen
Sean Fitzpatrick
Sara Lu Heath
Arline Lamear

CONNECTIVITY

Raven Brown
Craig Hoppes
Bill Van Nostran

SCOPE OF PROBLEM

Raven Brown or Alan Evans
Angela Cosby

#####END

Respectfully submitted,
Cindy Price
June 14, 2018