



**HOMELESSNESS TASK FORCE  
MINUTES  
THURSDAY, MAY 4, 2022  
6:00 – 8:30 P.M.  
CITY COUNCIL ROOM-(MUSIC HALL)**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

**PRESENT:**

**Rev. Kate Forer (Co-Chair), Tom Roohan (Co-Chair), Stephen Towne, Kate Halliday, Maggie Fronk, Hannah Hurley, Lindsey Connors, Jules DeAngelo, Dean Devito, Andrea Love Smith**

**ABSENT: Sherie Grinter**

**ANNOUNCEMENT OF RECORDING OF PROCEEDING:**

The proceedings of this meeting are being recorded for the benefit of the secretary. Because the minutes are not a verbatim record of the proceedings, the minutes are not a word-for-word transcript of the recording.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Chair Rev. Kate Forer the floor to Public comments.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Community Member 1- Deo- States she was serving food at Woodlawn this past weekend. Shares when she was serving an individual from a local business came and belittled and insulated the individuals being served. Many of these individuals didn't have a meal in two days. Wanted to share a realistic story for when you are making plans for these folks.

Community Member 2- Dina Hinkey- Speaks on a spreadsheet of calls from local shelters in the area. Ask if the information was ever shared from that with the rest of the committee. She shares other areas have also included the buffer, and she commends that as it is important. She also shares that there is a drug treatment buffer of 1000 feet from schools. Dina states that we need to consider these buffers. The location zero feet from a school is not acceptable.

Community Member 3- Kristy Keegan- States she has lived here since the early 90's. The city has grown and many have benefitted from its growth. What about the individuals whose lives haven't improved? Ones that have had challenges they cannot overcome. Saratoga Springs is not supposed to be two cities. One for the haves, and one for the have nots. We all, not just the city, are responsible for finding a solution.

Community Member 4- Sarah- Thanks task force for passing the resolution for the 1000 feet buffer.

Community Member 5- Attorney- Thanks the committee for passing the resolution. Ask about the resolution amendment. Shares when thinking about paring down 1000 feet from bus stop, or 1000 from a

park, a sex offender does not have to change their address for ten days. It is something that needs to be addressed because they may be in the shelter.

Community Member 6- Understands that a resolution is being passed to have a shelter in Saratoga. Encourages additional facilities on the location to be therapeutic, and better for the community.

#### MEETING START:

Mayor Kim shares a proposal. The existing Code Blue Shelter is now abandoned. It has only been used during the Code Blue time frame. RISE, along with Sonny and Julie Bonacio has proposed this location as a 24 hour, 365 day shelter starting June 1<sup>st</sup>. This will be a place for the homeless going forward. The City is issuing an RFP for this proposal. There will be a special City Council Meeting for those responses to include a vote. They are still working on the price. The City can do this for a minimum of 6 months, there may also be long term financing. The sale of William Street, or putting in paid parking may be an option. This will be expensive. The hope is to have an answer by June 1<sup>st</sup>. The details will be worked out in full transparency with the public. Mayor Kim shares that he will bring the proposal to City Council if they come to the conclusion to do so. This takes some pressure off of the location aspect of the shelter. Mayor Kim thanks the task force for their work. This would be in addition to Code Blue and not reduce the number of beds for Code Blue. Mayor Kim explains an RFP is a proposal for a bid, to include what the services are, and cost. It is sent out to all potential agencies. It doesn't mean RISE is the agency, any agency can put in a bid. It can be renewed automatically after the first award.

Rev. Kate Forer asks how long this would be in place for.

Lindsey Connors replies if it is Rise they have the sublease for at least 2 years.

Jules asks how much money the City is willing to spend on this.

Mayor Kim shares when discussion was started we heard anything from 1 million dollars. We want to ask the experts how much this would cost. They are also looking now how can we creatively finance this in the long term.

Hannah Hurley asks would this be running until we can get our more permanent one up and running.

Mayor Kim replies yes.

Aneisha Samuels Shares she is here to share the zoning requirements for shelters in Saratoga Springs. Presents a map that shows where shelters are permitted. Zoning GCR, CGU, T-5, T-6, and OMB is permitted for shelters. A special use permit is needed. This is a protection for some districts. There is consideration to neighborhood impacts, and the consolidated plan. The planning board considers parking, infrastructure, and the health and safety of the residents. All of T-6 is eliminated, most of T-5, a good portion of GCR, and GCU. The buffer starts from the property line.

Stephen Towne shares he was asked to share an amendment to the motion passed last week.

Tom Rohan seconds the motion.

Lindsey Connors shares a suggestion to the amendment. She asks to remove the language that the increasing violence in our country is due to homelessness, and also the line about pedophiliacs.

Maggie Fronk shares she thinks we can take out the language and have the same outcome. The language does not need to be unkind.

Jules DeAngelo shares that this language is insulting to homeless people.

Andrea Love Smith asks if we can use line two from the criteria of special use permit instead of the language.

Lindsey Connors agrees with using the language from the criteria for special use permit. Lindsey agreed to draft the new amendment to the proposed location exclusion resolution.

Hannah Hurley reads motion asking for all materials including but not limited to; meeting agenda, interviews, reports, motions, and other information that is relevant in making informed decision shall be presented to all members of the task force at least 24 hours prior to the start of our next meeting. The rationale behind this proposal is being able to prepare before meetings will ensure we have a fruitful informed conversation, and allow for clarification and research to be done before meeting.

Jules seconds the motion.

All in favor of vote- 9-0

Rev. Kate Forer shares the committee is using a matrix when considering recommended location

Tom Roohan suggests considering bus routes, services, for sale, for lease, availability, proximity to services, location, zoning, and neighborhood character, environmental, walkability, laundry mats, grocery stores, pharmacy, handicapped accessible, conversion cost, etc. This list will be discussed between the task force.

Next meeting is Monday the 15<sup>th</sup>.

### **Public Comment**

Community member 1- Dina Hinkey shares that there is a conflict of interest because RISE has someone on the task force, is potentially running the shelter, and could benefit from this. Shares she think Lindsey should consider removing herself from the vote.

Lindsey Connors states she would recuse herself from any votes that has deciding factors on agency.

Community Member 2- Shares they feel there may be a conflict of interest also having someone from the Roohan family on the task force. She is pleased to hear that there is some language change in the resolution about children congregating. There is a difference between playgrounds, and somewhere children will be supervised full time.

Community Member 3- States there may be two RFP's needed for the Shelter. Shares an aggressive timeline was set for these decisions. Asks to include development in the work for coming up with a decision.

Community Member 4- Fran- Shares she is thankful that the wording in the motion from last week was changed.

Jules DeAngelo moved the amendment drafted by Lindsey Connors:

Amendment:

We wish to put forth a motion to help establish a “ground rule” that can streamline our deliberation and attempt to make our examination of options more efficient

Businesses, insurance companies, law firms and real estate companies alike, and many other entities all utilize the term “exclusion” to eliminate certain items or matters from consideration. In our case, too, it is applicable to our location options as well.

Based on the evaluation criteria for Special Use Permits in the City of Saratoga Springs, we put forth the following motion:

Motion:

That no permanent low-barrier shelter in Saratoga Springs be sited at a location near a school.

Children as defined by this motion:

For the purposes of this motion, children are defined as any individual up to the age of 18, the legal base age of an adult.

Minimum required location “buffer” for a Permanent Shelter:

At the time of the location of the shelter, the minimum required distance, or “buffer”, from a school that shall be considered or sited is 1,000 feet.

Jules DeAngelo motion was seconded.

Stephen Towne moved to withdraw his original resolution. Ayes all.

The task force then voted on Jules DeAngelo’s motion. Ayes- 7, 2 abstentions (Hannah Hurley, Jules DeAngelo)

Tom Roohan makes motion to bring the proposal to the city council. Ayes- 7, 2 abstentions (Hannah Hurley, Jules DeAngelo)

Adjourn