



**HOMELESSNESS TASK FORCE
MINUTES
THURSDAY, MAY 15, 2023
6:00 – 8:00 P.M.
CITY COUNCIL ROOM-(MUSIC HALL)**

CALL TO ORDER:

PRESENT:

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

ABSENT: Sherie Grinter, Kate Halliday

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- John Dooley- Represent protecting all Saratoga Student PASS. They areThey opposed the William street location. Thanks the task force for their diverse thoughts.

Community Member 2- Dina Hinkey- Handed out a packet to the taskforce that enclosed everything she has stated in previous meetings. These documents represents data collected to show research she has done to show how a shelter near a school is harmful to children. Encourages the City and task force to take William Street permanently off the table.

Community Member 3- Gail Riley- Thanks the task force for passing the 1000 foot buffer.

Community Member 4- Melissa- Commend the City for taking steps to deal with the unhoused. Urges them to look outside of the south side of the City. This part of the City is in need of revamping. Having the sehtler in this location could affect its economic impact.

Community Member- 5- John- Whatever you choose some people will be mad, some may be happy. We need to stop the influx of people coming in. The population will grow. Are we looking at to help them after we get them shelter? Getting them back to life, does not mean to ruin our lives. There is tons of kids in out area.

Community Member 6- Fran White- Teacher and mother of 4 children. There are a lot of tents that go up that are bordering her back yard. She is concerned of having her children, or their friends in their backyards. The people from the homeless shelter have built a path from their neighborhood to SPAC. We cannot go through that area without finding paraphernalia.

Sam Brewer- Still opposed to the construction of a dedicated shelter in Saratoga. Feels it is dangerous to put people with substance abuse issues, mental health, etc. in a concentrated area. The City is liable if anything happens at this shelter. IF we convert Code Blue from 30 beds to 60 beds, what happens to the individuals who needed those beds? You should slow this down, and turn it into a long term management issue.

MEETING START:

Rev. Kate Forer- Code Blue as of now is anticipated to be separate from this shelter. Shelters of Saratoga has the contract with Saratoga County to run this program. They are looking into another location to house Code Blue. This would be in addition to Code Blue.

The Schedule forthcoming is June 1st at 6pm. June 8th at 6pm, and then June ? at 6pm.

Aneisha Samuels shares the slide to include the 1000 buffer to be used for homeless shelters. The City is considering some zoning text amendment changes to the UDO. This would make it no longer a recommendation, and it would become local law. This needs to be approved by the City Council to make it more permanent.

Tom Roohan- The Mayor's agenda for tomorrow to set the public hearing for this change.

Dean DeVito- They should probably look at if a homeless shelter is there first, so no one would come in later to try to open a school.

Aneisha Samuels- They would be in both places to offer checks and balances. Under the homeless shelter, and then the school.

Angela Rella shares the RPF bid process. Bids would be reviewed to ensure they meet requirements. Then the proposals are evaluated. They would move ahead with a contract based on the bid. There are legal requirements so the bids cannot be opened until May 30th.

Aneisha Samuels shares the matric to make the decision for the location selection. Using the rubric attached to the agenda to rate the variables being considered for the most appropriate location. The comment section is there to help give the reasoning, or more weight to the number assigned to A particular location.

Maggie Fronk says this rubric may help us to rate higher values of different items.

Dean Devito asks what would be the smallest amount that we should be looking to house.

Lindsey Connors shares she has never seen under 18 beds. She suggests adding rehabbing a site to the rubric. If we could rehab an SRO (single Resident occupancy) when evaluation sites. Asks who we are relying on to give us cost estimates for construction. Rehabs, etc. There is recommendations and square footages as far as fire safety. IT depends on what kind of shelter, and who is being housed, in what the requirements would be.

Maggie Fronk shares the variables make it complicated to know what exactly is needed.

Resident Lance Wally is asking if fire code is being broken the City could be held liable. He feels that the shelter Code Blue was way over capacity.

Maggie Fronk there is many other stringent requirements that have to adhere to.

Aneisha Samuels shares she is adding to add an SRO

Shares she currently has a list of 13 sites, and hopes to have an evaluation to go with each suggestion by the next meeting.

Mayor Kim shares this list is the compiled of the sites suggested by the public.

Jules DeAngelo motions to taking William Street Off the list of the list. Tom Roohan seconds

Community Member Sam Brewer shares that the old brewery is near infrastructure in the city.

Tom Roohan says we can take the old brewery off the list due to..... . The former county building is also not an opportunity. The vacant lot across from Espey is not a good option, close to the YMCA, highly. Motions to take those 3 locations off the list- Jules DeAngelo seconds the motion.

Mayro Kim- An architect sent the recommendation for the top of Woodlawn garage. The near Saratoga hospital was more of a holistic approach that these individuals may need care, and they would be near the hospital. The parking lot on myrtle was the suggestion.

Maggie Fronk asks if these locations could be put on a map with the buffers.

Tom Roohan states he Not interested in selling. Shares they wanted us to consider the design motel, but it is not for sale. There is a motel that is available for sale to consider.

Mayor Kim shares that we do contact CDTA often if needed for the location.

Community member shares property behind the Pinegrove church and the Mt. McGregor property should be considered.

Dean Devito shared there was a grant at one point to redevelop the Mt. McGregor property.

Maggie Fronk has approached the church, and is waiting to hear back.

Community member Dina Hinkey shared that she didn't say every call is going to put children into lockdown, but many times a week they would

Adjourn