



**HOMELESSNESS TASK FORCE
MINUTES
THURSDAY, JUNE 8, 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, Hannah Hurley, Lindsey Connors, Dean Devito, , Kate Halliday, Aneisha Samuels, Maggie Fronk, Sherie Grinter, Andrea Love Smith

ABSENT: Jules DeAngelo

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.

Chair Rev. Kate Forer the floor to Public Comment.

Public Comment:

Community Member 1- Duane Vaughn- Executive Director of Shelters of Saratoga. Referring to the RFP, shares if the shelter will be double staffed 365 days, 24/7 based on the RFP amount that would equate to \$13.50 an hour. Ask questions pertaining to the low barrier shelter: Who are not allowed in a low barrier shelter? Are sex offenders allowed, anyone with communicable diseases? Where will they be referred to if not allowed? Will Children or pets be allowed? Will there be a policy on bands? Are people at risk of harming themselves or others allowed in the low barrier shelter?

Lindsey Connors responds that RISE is helping with staff cost out of their funds. The \$13.50 will be gap funding. Sex Offenders are not permitted at the current low barrier. They are screening for that, they will be connected with DSS. They shelter is currently 18 and over, but if children come after hours, they will let them spend one night next to the staff office until placement can be made the next day. A health screening is taken on intake. They have a relationship with community health, and have procedures in place. Pets are not allowed. DSS is required to house services animals.

NEW BUSINESS:

Angela Rella shares an update on the low barrier shelter. A special City Council meeting will be held on June 9th to vote on the bid for the shelter services through the rest of the year. Angela shares that the City has an option to continue a temporary shelter for two more years if a permanent solution cannot be in place.

Tom Roohan shares the temporary low barrier shelter facility has 25-30 beds, air conditioning, laundry, fencing, breakfast, lunch, and dinner provided on site from outside sources.

Angela Rella shares that the 1000 foot buffer was agreed by Mayor's staff to be added as an amendment to the UDO. The planning department. The City Council voted the amendment be referred to both the City, and County Planning Board for their advisory opinion. Once those opinions come back, a public hearing on that amendment will be schedule if the City Council wishes to move forward. A vote will follow.

Rev. Kate Forer shares the information for the other locations to be reviewed will be ready for the next meeting on June 26th. Rev. Kate reviews subcommittees that were created in the previous meeting. The subcommittee to put together an RFP for agency includes; Maggie, Hannah, Jules, and Rev. Kate. The Subcommittee for design build includes; Dean, Tom, Linsey, and Andrea. For Fundraising the subcommittee includes; Stephen, Kate, and Maggie as available.

Stephen Towne shares a document on funding sources that was provided to the taskforce. The Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance provided information on funding for acquisition. The two primary funding sources would be for acquisition, and the other for operational. Stephen states he put together a list of sources from various state, local, private sources that could be used for future funding. Stephen shares he believes the future agency will be able to help guide the funding process.

Rev. Kate Forer Adjourns meeting for taskforce members to meet together to go over plans for their subcommittee. Advises members of the taskforce to look at possible shelter locations to prepare for the next meeting.

Tony Izzo shares that the City purchasing policy includes RFP's in most cases including services. This would be needed to move forward with the future permanent shelter.

Adjourn