

# 10-Year HOAC

## Meeting notes

### February 24, 2016

**Present: Andrea Myhre, Jennifer Moore, Abraham Griswold, Kenny Lowe, Tatiana Dierwechter, Sara Harstein, Karen Levy, Chris Hawkins, Dave Toler, Tom Sherry, Judy Ball, Tina Mills, Barbara Ross, Aleita Hass-Holcombe, Dina Eldridge, Jennifer Morris, Letetia Wilson, Bob Loewen, Jennifer Chen, Gregg Olson, Bill Glassmire, Paula Grace, Karen Rockwell, Anne Schuster, Biff Traber, Martha Lyon, Kari Whitacre, Jessica Taylor, Steve Shultz, Paul Cauthorn, Steve G.,**

#### 1. Welcome/Introductions

##### o Dave Toller:

- Started Lifelong Housing certification program in Rouge Valley—ensures certain features in a home for folks with disabilities. Universal design into the home, from construction up or added in. Allows folks to stay in home and get around with ease versus going into an institution.
- Pretty much takes off on its own, doesn't need much funding. Hoping to get the certification program so that people know their home can be utilized by those with disabilities.
- The certification program would allow us to adopt a building inspector who can go out to inspect each home at whatever "accessibility" it would like to be.
- Karen and Dave discussed the purpose and cost of certification.
- Dave will also attend HOAC meetings to represent veterans

#### 2. Proposals to the city and commissioners (Tatiana/Jen)—will be coming to city council work session on March 8th

##### o Aid in helping us with updating 10 year plan—BCHD; Tatiana

- In the past year, BCHD has been completing a comprehensive community health process to look at unmet needs in our county. Needs that were

unmet included housing, transportation, food insecurity, obesity, access to affordable health care, and affordable mental health services.

- Have been working to find a short term project to plan and intervene using existing staff and partnering with HOAC to update the 5 year plan and to align it with the CHIP (Community Health Improvement Plan) and other initiatives.
- Proposal for a lead administrator – United Way
  - County is proposing to do the heavy lifting and integration pieces for the update of the 10 year plan. They will work to identify outcomes and processes for the evaluation team, which works well with the SMART team’s goals. The lead administrator would pick that up as a project manager type role. More details to come in the packet for the city council.
  - Biff stated that the council would like to have community comments on what we are producing in a way so they can have an effective meeting. There is a new Facebook page for short comments. There has also been an online form to enter in comments. [Corvallisoregon.org/publicinput](http://Corvallisoregon.org/publicinput). This is a good way for counselors to read your comments. There will be a public comments session after the work session. The work session will be at 3:30 on March 8<sup>th</sup> in the Madison Avenue Meeting Room.
  - **Action item:** Members call fill out the online form to submit comments to the council and/or attend the work session.
  - Anne commented that we are asking for money from the county. We have gotten a good response, but are waiting for a formal proposal from Tatiana.
  - Jen Moore commented that United Way was asked to submit an application for the lead administrator. There may be perceived conflicts of interests since United Way is also sitting on the board. They want to be open and transparent so those risks can be negotiated as much as needed.

- More discussion was had on sending comments before the work session via the online form.
  - Paula asked if the proposals were online.
    - Biff stated they will be in the packet for the work session but can be sent out to the HOAC mailing list.
    - **Action item:** Send out the proposals to the HOAC mailing list before the work session.
- Tom Sherry asked if as the lead administrator, United Way would be represented by lead administrator but not sit on governing board? Jen Moore replied that it would go back to governing board to decide what that looks like.

### 3. Updates:

- Governance
  - At the last meeting, the draft charter was said to be final and that it was time to sign declarations of cooperation, though only one has been submitted.
  - Governance board is scheduled to meet next Wednesday and hope to have a revised and final version by early next month.
  - A discussion was had on the concern of the size of the governance board, which in the current draft charter sits at 32.
  - Comments:
    - Karen discussed concerns with the direction the committee will be going. Karen commented that depending on the direction, her organization may or may not be effected which would change her stance on being on the standing committee. It was noted that the results from the SWOT analysis will help us understand the scope of the HOAC.
    - Biff commented that the goal is to put governance in place so we update the 10 year plan. They are trying to be inclusive but perhaps too inclusive.

- A discussion was had between many members weighing the pros and cons of a large voting group versus a smaller voting group.
- Karen Rockwell asked if the issue we are looking at is housing or homelessness?
  - Biff replied that the group is looking at both pieces of the problem.
  - Karen commented back that if we are looking at housing, you need to include housing homes. If you want to break the cycle of poverty, you need to have an approach to home ownership.
- SMART Team—SWOT analysis and discussion—Tatiana/ Andrea
  - Majority of the team meeting was talking about feedback from SWOT analysis
    - In efforts to align many different initiatives, there is work being done to figure out how to back fill in some of the work and make things more comprehensive.
      - 160 responses; the responses from the O-Opportunities section was passed around the group. Reflects that the community wants to be a part of the conversation.
      - Team is going through the responses and finding common themes. See handout for some themes that were brought up
      - There is work to create a proposal to city council that will allow for strategies to work together, find other folks to help with that work, and look at the data to see if we are reaching our outcomes.
    - Will be working with other partners to do informal focus groups using the same questions to reach those who may not have had access to the survey and also include responses from those in the school district and involved with OSU.
    - Andrea commented that a theme that has already shown includes how we provide services to individuals experiencing

homelessness. The hope is to find an issue we can take relatively quick action on, identify strategies, and bring it back to the group to see who would want to work on the issue.

4. Barbara Ross, visitor who works on issues surrounding homelessness in Portland.
  - Last fall, Portland had 1300 people on the streets. They opened 400 new beds and have almost all veterans and families off the streets. There are still 800 adults on the streets. This has created lots of tenting, spontaneous structures being built, and people sleeping on the streets
  - Mayor is considering approving legal camping. The city already has two camping grounds ran by homeless for homeless. Recently a group started camping on city property. The city decided to work with the group instead of against. The community is called Hazelwood Grove and 30 people currently reside there. The city built a fence around them, is paying for toilets, garbage services, and brought in a box car to install some lockers. See hand out for a picture of their Code of Conduct. It is expected that more of these communities will pop up.
  - Barbara asked the group if they would consider using this as a strategy to help those who are already camping illegally. She stated that this was not necessarily going to happen, but that the conversation around the idea can start now so we can look what other communities are doing.
  - Barbara met with focus group of 10 homeless individuals and 4 community members where they discussed how they could see this idea working. The same group will meet next week to talk about what the building blocks would be.
  - Odd Fellows have said they might want to step forward for the cause—not to run it, but are interested in providing some help, encouragement, and funds.
  - The community would require a three legged stool: responsibility committee of those who have or are experiencing homelessness, organization that would “sponsor” the camp—doing the bookwork, taking money in, paying bills, keeping books, etc. and a sponsor organization that would cover the liability.

- Many members discussed the advantages of this type of community and if the camp would allow drugs and alcohol and how that would work out in practice.
  - Kari asked if the city of Portland was paying for the camp in Portland.
    - Barbara responded that yes, but in Corvallis a private organization or church would sponsor. A discussion was had about estimated costs and where the camp could be located in Corvallis.
5. Steve Shultz informed the group of the City Club Forum on February 25<sup>th</sup>
- The Library would open at 5:15 with the first Panel starting at 5:30. The second panel will follow after a 10 minute break, which will be more question and answer focused.
  - Discussion was had about the goals and topics of the panels.
    - The conversation will focus generally about what has happened in the past year and a half, specifically around homeless.
    - Anne commented that we have not engaged the whole community this will be a chance to do that and have a two way conversation. She also commented the focus at the panel will be more towards homeless issues such as veterans, students, families, etc. rather than discussing the 4<sup>th</sup> street shelter.
6. Is there an interest of a committee to explore the option of a tent city?
- Much discussion was had between many member about previous barriers to camping within the city, changes that can be made to current ordinances that prohibit camping, and the discussion revolving around the tent city.
  - Paula stated that she represents a funding organization and is really committed to what this group is doing. Paula discussed the harm she feels will occur if the 4<sup>th</sup> street shelter is reopened because of the community's feelings about the shelter. She proposed the idea of having a "band aid" shelter to hold us over until CHF supportive housing units are built and looked to the COI and CHF to help support, offering that she may be able to get funding for it.
    - A discussion was had onto why some may feel that reopening the shelter in the same area may be harmful.

- Greg commented that while they do want to respect their neighbors, they are not the only agency or housing type that can be disruptive. He also stated that CHF is working on small positive changes, such as port a potties. CHF is behavior based, and therefore asks disruptive people to leave.
- Kenny offered that if we can get together and collaborate we can have a greater impact in solving some of our problems. He also commented with his frustration of the lack of leadership to debunk some of the myths of homelessness downtown.
- Tom Sherry stated that over the last 12 years that CHF has sponsored a shelter, there was a period of 2-3 years they did not have a place or provide services. It could happen where there is no shelter next year.
- Greg commented that they were firmly committed to opening the shelter November 1<sup>st</sup> of this year. If someone else wants to pick it up between now and then, we will support that in any way we can. If another piece of property comes up or wants to dedicate a tent place he is not opposed to it, but have enough to do what they are trying to do until we build their supportive housing structure or something else comes along.
- Paula commented on CHF having done a good job and filled a good need, but still felt that the negative community perception will not go away.

**7. Next meeting will be March 30, 2016 1:30-3:00**