

Housing Opportunities Action Council

Governing Board

Minutes 02-28-2018

Board Members in Attendance: Biff Traber (co-chair), Anne Schuster (co-chair), Julie Manning, Blake Pang, Jennifer Moore, Chris Quaka, Tabitha Ciulla (alt-Rockwell), Brigetta Olson (alt-Moorefield), Lauren Schaffner (alt-Latimer), Jennifer Morris (Alt-Wilson), Paul Adent (alt-Derrick), Wendy Younger (alt-Holt), Karyle Butcher, Andrea Myhre, Dan Duncan, Kari Whitacre, Nicole Hindes, Aleita Hass-Holcombe, Chris Hawkins, Shawn Collins (Program Manager)

Time	Type	Presenter	Topic / Notes
1:30 pm	Report	Co-Chairs and Program Manager	Introductions Approve January Minutes Co-Chair Comments Program Manager report
<p>Approval of January Minutes: Motion: Kari Whitacre, Second: Jennifer Moore. Approved</p> <p>Co-Chair Comments: No comments.</p> <p>Program Manager Report: Written comments were distributed, and are available online (http://bentonhoac.com/monthly-meetings/). Highlights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Shared update to Ten Year Plan and HOAC overview to City Council Feb 20, and Benton County Board of Commissioners Feb 27. - Shelter season ends April 1. - C.A.R.E. Corvallis Area Resource Event, scheduled for March 6th at the Corvallis-Benton County Public Library, with nearly 30 agencies signed up. - Homeless Outreach Team defining best practices, guidelines and schedule. Working with CPD, and Parks & Recreation on best approaches to collaboration. <p>Comments: Butcher: Has information been pulled together on the costs to the City/County for enforcement and interventions with homeless, as opposed to cost of providing shelter and other services? Would like to understand this in part to understand requests before the budget commission for more officers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traber: Not aware of that data being available at this time, but would be helpful. • Duncan: Request for officers is not directly related to homelessness, but rather the ratio of officers/calls for service, which is very low compared to other communities in the state. 			
1:40 pm	SMART Team update	Andrea Myhre, chair of SMART team	(information/review/decision)
<p>Workgroup Updates</p>			

Housing Supply and Messaging, Brigetta Olson:

- Have trained people on messaging and "why home matters" -- there is now a group of trained trainers available, who can deliver training for agencies or community groups. Hoping to have more people skilled in messaging and advocacy across the community.

- Housing Opportunity Day Feb 15 - several workgroup members attended, and advocated for HB 4007, an increase in the document recording fee to support development of affordable housing, with members of the Oregon Legislature.

- Policy Framework for HOAC (information)

Prioritized policy agenda in development, which will support advocacy and messaging for HOAC. Will be asking for time on the March Agenda to present.

QUESTION: Schuster: Have you heard of Opportunity Zones?

Olson: Yes - early in development, but may provide opportunity for communities to identify census tracts that could benefit from funding through Opportunity Zones, with some possibility of federal funding being targeted.

COMMENT: Traber: City is researching whether to submit proposals, and how many areas are candidates.

- Letter to Corvallis City Council re: HOAC Outreach and Engagement (for review/decision)

Andrea Myhre: In December, a memo was presented to Council from Chief Sassaman and Director Emery with recommendations for addressing behavioral problems in the parks and illegal camping. Efforts to develop more formal outreach have begun to offer an alternative approach. This topic was addressed specifically in the workgroup, and at Leadership, which recommended a response. A draft letter is in the meeting packet for Governing Board review. Intent is to encourage outreach and alternatives to law enforcement (where appropriate), as well as collaboration and coordination with Corvallis Police Department and Parks & Recreation.

Requesting Motion for Approval:

MOTION: Julie Manning: Move to approve sending letter to City Council, signed as member organizations of HOAC (with opportunities for members to abstain).

Second: Brigetta Olson.

DISCUSSION:

Traber: Offers clarification that organizations can opt out of signing the letter.

Whitacre: Would like opinion of CPD on this letter.

Duncan: Can't comment – comment would have to come from the Chief.

Traber: As a community member, think this is a good letter, and reinforces collaboration already in progress between CPD, Parks & Recreation. Council is looking for perspective from HOAC on these topics, and a letter like this offers a good approach to sharing that perspective.

Futher discussion of the state of current collaboration, and what this may be asking of Council. The letter is largely informational – the specific ask of Council is to support collaboration.

Butcher: Would like to see more data from Parks & Recreation on the impact to toilets in the parks, etc. Would like to understand more specifics on impacts and costs. The City has consistently said it will not provide more toilets or trash pickup, as it encourages an illegal activity, but many of the citations mentioned in the original memo to Council are for items that are a direct result of not having access to hygiene and sanitation facilities for the homeless.

Myhre: Expects recommendations on making more facilities available to be part of future conversations.

Butcher: Frequently asks people to picture what they would do, if they were turned out from Shelter in the morning, and could not return until 7pm. Where would you rest, use a bathroom, etc?

Schuster: Would rather see this wrapped into a plan, than to send a letter.

Traber: There is an ordinance change on the Council agenda, unrelated to the memo of Dec 18, which clarifies some language in the camping ordinance. But it doesn't change the core ban on camping. The city under a complaint based model for response to camping.

Myhre: HOAC needs to get comfortable with the model of taking positions with City/County. The workgroups are going to bring things forward regularly that need review and would establish an HOAC position.

Quaka: Is the outreach effort establishing an unfunded mandate for non-profits/agencies? Can we clarify the process of a letter like this coming forward?

Myhre: Funding has been a topic, but it's not a requirement for all agencies to participate. As for the process of the letter, we haven't built a clear path at this point, and this is something to be addressed. Developing a response was discussed in Governing Board in December, and in subsequent Leadership meetings, and meetings of the Housing Supply and Messaging workgroup.

Olson: We have a plan which includes objectives to advance policy, and HOAC has an advocacy role. We have to build out a clear process to advance positions.

Quaka: Is that something understood by all in HOAC? Are members of HOAC prepared to support this on behalf of their organizations?

Traber: This has been a significant conversation in Leadership, and advocacy is part of the Charter. Leadership has discussed, but not with the letter in hand.

Lyon: We've been waiting for a long time to communicate on these issues -- we need to be clear going forward on how this should be managed.

Manning: The workgroup intends to bring a framework forward to help the HOAC manage policy recommendations, and advocacy on positions.

Schuster: Perhaps members need to go back to their organizations and clarify their comfort level.

Pang: How many organizations are not in a position to approve?

Moore: We do have advocacy as part of the plan

Whitacre: Since it was not approved at Leadership, and I have not reviewed the letter prior to this meeting, I would be uncomfortable with signing.

Lyon: Have to come to grips to with the idea of not agreeing but supporting. We are going to see more recommendations from the workgroups -- we have to get comfortable with supporting.

Manning: Get sense the group is not ready to approve -- would like to withdraw the motion. Appreciation for those who have worked on this.

MOTION WITHDRAWN WITH NO VOTE

Continued discussion:

Myhre: Should a smaller group sign?

[NOTE: A revised version of the letter will be shared with HOAC members. Any organization or individual may offer their endorsement, but it will not be presented "on behalf of HOAC."]

Pang: What are the problems people have with this letter?

Butcher: Feels like this is the achilles heel of HOAC -- we get to the edge, and can't decide.

Collins: Reminder to all that the approved Bylaws and Operating Policies define decision making process for the group as being "modified consensus." As defined in the Operating Policies, modified consensus means that all group members "either fully support or can live with a proposal or decision..." or they may stand aside, noting a disagreement while still allowing the group to reach consensus. This is important for all to review, as the workgroups will be bringing forward more items for HOAC decisions in the future, and as noted by Martha Lyon, we must get comfortable with making these decisions.

[NOTE:

Bylaws and Operating Policies are linked from: <http://bentonhoac.com/governingboard/>]

<p>Comprehensive Care Coordination, Pegge McGuire and Letetia Wilson (not present): Recent meeting was cancelled – next meeting is scheduled for March 15.</p> <p>Mental and Behavioral Health, Bettina Schempf (not present): Refer to Lead Administrator Summary report for update.</p>			
2:05 pm	Funding Coordination Team update	Jim Moorefield, chair of Funding Coordination team	(information)
Olson: No report			
2:10 pm	HOAC engagement with ROCC: Benefits of becoming an informal local Continuum of Care	Pegge McGuire, Community Services Consortium	(review/decision)
Agenda item will be re-scheduled for March meeting.			
2:35 pm	PIT Count update/debrief	Pegge McGuire, Community Services Consortium	(information)
Agenda item will be re-scheduled for March meeting.			
2:40	Public Comment / Q&A		
<p>Vince Adams: Chair of Corvallis School Board. Here to explain the abrupt pivot of the School Board on the issue of homeless students. In a recent GT article, there were comments by Adams and the vice-chair in response to report on numbers of homeless children in Corvallis School District. Have heard similar reports for years, but have recently come to understand that as a community, we have to take a stronger stand to support children experiencing homelessness. There's a great cost to the children, that we should not be willing to accept. Need to partner with experienced service providers to change this situation -- expect the School Board to be more significantly engaged. Ask that the priority of children and families be elevated in the discussion of this group.</p> <p>Whitacre: Had a great meeting recently with School District, Jackson Street and others -- determined that it's not capacity only, but other drivers with the families that may keep families from being housed.</p> <p>Schuster: Gloria Krahn from OSU is willing to be involved with an effort to drive planning in this area, if HOAC wants the support. Is there interest in this from HOAC?</p> <p>Brigetta Olson: Believe that the framework previously adopted (in the update to the Ten Year Plan) includes supports for child/family homelessness.</p> <p>Traber: Would be possible to charter another workgroup - which would create some structure to address in a more systematic way.</p>			

Schuster: Agree -- it is in the plan, but would like to see HOAC adopt an overarching goal, with more specific targets for outcomes.

Olson: Agree that a big ambitious goal may be helpful.

Myhre: This could be a topic of an upcoming agenda for workgroup co-chairs in March.

Butcher: LVW Housing committee may be a forum for some of this. Also, LWV is having a public forum on how density may offer some solutions for some of Corvallis' housing supply challenges.

Pang: Would like to be involved in any ad hoc group that's formed around Child & Family Homelessness. Also, have been involved with warming shelter group in Lincoln County. They would like to be able to connect with a group to get guidance on how to build support for their efforts.

Other announcements:

Schuster:

- WOOFing -- Worldwide Opportunity on Organic Farms -- matches people interested in organic farms with opportunities to live there in exchange for service. Could this be a model to match people looking for housing and social contact, with those who may have large houses with space and an interest in sharing?
- International Clubhouse model to provide mental health supports in a daytime "clubhouse" setting -- there's active effort by a family in the community to develop in Corvallis. Any who would like to support this effort should contact Anne Schuster.