



Meeting Minutes

Ad Hoc Committee on Housing Affordability

City Hall
601 4th Avenue E
Olympia, WA 98501
Information: 360.753.8244

Monday, June 5, 2017

5:30 PM

Council Chambers

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Hankins called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: 3 - Chair Julie Hankins, Committee member Jim Cooper and Committee member Jeannine Roe

OTHERS PRESENT

Olympia Staff:

City Manager Steve Hall

City Attorney Mark Barber

Community Planning and Development Director Keith Stahley

Police Chief Ronnie Roberts

Deputy Fire Chief Greg Wright

Thurston-Mason Behavioral Health Organization Administrator Mark Freedman

SideWalk Executive Director Phil Owens

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- 4.A** [17-0633](#) Approval of May 17, 2017 Ad Hoc Committee on Housing Affordability Meeting Minutes

The minutes were approved.

5. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

- 5.A** [17-0611](#) Consideration of the Relationship Between Public Safety Needs, Approaches, and Housing Affordability and Homelessness Issues from a Thurston County and City Of Olympia Perspective

Chief Roberts discussed Olympia's public safety needs. Police Department staff additions and increased training will help ensure that as the City's population grows, the

Department will be able to address public safety needs effectively. These additions would focus on the downtown area, neighborhoods and training.

Mr. Freedman discussed the Thurston-Mason Behavioral Health Organization's recently opened Triage Center, as well as the newly activated Mobile Outreach (MOT) and Intensive Case Management (ICM) teams. The Triage Center is designed to provide a clinically-appropriate alternative to incarceration for individuals experiencing an acute psychiatric crisis, and who have been involved with law enforcement. This is a 10-bed, involuntary facility. The MOT and ICM teams were developed to provide specialized, recovery-focused services to people with mental health and/or substance use issues. The intent of these two programs is to help individuals during times of crisis so they can regain stability, stay safe in the community and prevent incarceration or unnecessary hospitalization. Medicaid assists in costs of these services, but it does not pay for housing.

Mr. Wright discussed three items that are going on within the Olympia Fire Department:

- Downtown data collection
- Care Coordinator
 - Connects frequent callers to various resources throughout Thurston County
- Downtown Aid Unit
 - Funded by federal grant until early 2019
 - Unit will be active starting July 1, 2017 with a schedule of 6 days a week and 12 hours a day (peak hours)
 - Would like this to be a 24/7 unit

The discussion was completed.

5.B [17-0614](#) Consideration of Draft Report on Options for Housing Affordability and Homelessness Response

Mr. Stahley provided a draft Administrative and Financial Plan for the Olympia Affordable Housing Fund. This type of plan must be adopted prior to any type of fund going into effect. There are many things that have to happen before such a plan is absolutely necessary, but this plan can start to lay out a framework for a discussion about key issues and decision points. Timing is an important aspect of this process. Key policy questions that must be addressed in the plan were discussed. The differences between general and emergency levies and between property and sales tax were discussed.

Committee member Roe stated the importance of providing more immediate figures to the public, rather than only the figures for the conclusion of the Program Goals timeframe. It is beneficial to combine figures for both short- and long-term goals.

Chair Hankins spoke to the importance of the public following along with the City through the process; they will help define what issues the City is facing.

Coummittee member Cooper questioned whether this plan will be presented to Council

the following evening as a single step of a continual process; Mr. Stahley confirmed. Committee member Cooper suggested changing the Program Goals timeframe from 7 to 10 years. He questioned whether private developers could be incentivized to build low-income housing. Staff said this is a topic that would need further discussion. Committee member Cooper worried that any conversation around sales tax is too long; it is possible the City does not have a mechanism until the County's timeline runs out. Mr. Barber is not positive this would lead to a significant delay. Committee member Cooper liked the idea of connecting the plan to Community Development Block Grant funds but questioned the need for an annual request for proposals (RFP) process versus doing two large bonds within the Program Goal timeframe. He thought it would be beneficial to spend time leveraging funds rather than spending time doing annual RFPs.

The discussion was completed.

6. REPORTS AND UPDATES - None

7. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:32 p.m.