



Citizen Homelessness Commission Minutes

Thursday, September 13, 2018

Agenda

1. **Call to Order – 3:10pm**
2. **Roll Call (see attachment)**
3. **Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes – August 9, 2018**
 - Comments from commissioners included changing the word “report” in the title of the document to “minutes” and adding lists of commissioners who were present at and absent from the meeting. A motion was made by Commissioner Mendelsohn to approve the August 9th minutes, as revised to reflect those comments. Commissioner Culak seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Commissioners also noted that corrected minutes from prior meetings had not been distributed and that minutes of some meetings were not posted on the City’s website.
4. **Overview of Austin Street Center**
 - Founded 35 years ago on Austin Street to focus on a private solution to address homeless needs and individualize care for the most overlooked population of women over 18 and men over 45.
 - Provides 400 beds as a low-barrier shelter, education-employment partnerships, chapel services for those who want it, on-site mental health care and housing-focused case management.
 - The interactive portal displayed where people go after they leave Austin Street.
 - Average length of stay is 32 days. The case management process can transfer individuals out faster making them able to serve 2-3 times more people.
 - Length of stay for those who work with a case manager have a ¼ shorter length of stay.
 - Case management and being housing-focused accounts for the success of reducing the length of stay.
 - Commissioner Conrad suggests house sharing as a good way to do rapid re-housing.
5. **Bridge Steps Management Services Contract (Voting Item)**
 - Staff provided an overview of the interlocal agreement with Dallas County for services at The Bridge and the proposed second renewal option for a 5-year contract with Bride Steps.
 - Terms: 5-year renewal term ending 9/30/23; \$1M from County; \$3.47K from City; total funding down \$330K based on City audit recommendations.
 - Pay-to-stay concept includes up to 50 beds for \$235K from October 1, 2018 to September 30, 2019. (\$219K daily portion/\$16K purchase beds), pursuant to Track 1 of the OHS proposal previously approved by the Commission and the City Council.
 - Neighborhood associations declined to enter into formal Good Neighbor agreements, so proposal recommends including community engagement provisions and internal and external operational changes in the contract with Bridge Steps.
 - The commissioner’s discussion of the contract included concern expressed by Commissioner Ragan about moving forward with a 5-year contract without greater demonstrated progress on certain good neighbor initiatives, including some that had been discussed by City Council in December 2017. A 1-year term was suggested by Commissioner Ragan.
 - Commissioner Mendelsohn recommended that the County’s contribution should be increased in the future since much of what The Bridge does is mental and physical health. She also suggested a \$100K reduction in funding for fiscal-year 2019, as opposed to the \$330K provided for in the contract, so that Bridge Steps can self-adjust fundraising in the following year.
 - Commissioner Mendelsohn made a motion to recommend to City Council that it accept the Bridge Steps Management Services Contract with the change of only \$100K reduction in 2019 funding and a 1-year renewal term. Commissioner Culak seconded. Motion passed by majority vote. Opposition: Chair Webb, Commissioner Garner, Commissioner Headley.
6. **Office of Homeless Solutions Report**
 - OHS Proposed Fy18-19 Budget Enhancements
 - Overview of department budget enhancement request. City Council votes on budget next Tuesday, September 18th. Enhancement from general fund to strengthen homeless response system effectiveness (\$250K), Dallas Homeless Investment Program for operational support or case management (\$500K),

Supportive Senior Program for any senior project for the homeless (\$250K), Master Lease for rental subsidy (\$1.2M), and Landlord Incentive Program (\$100K) totaling \$2.3M.

- Commissioner Culak wants staff to ask for twice the amount next year.

● Homeless Solutions Strategy: Track 3 & 4

- Staff is working with the Housing Subcommittee on Tracks 3 & 4.
- Mayor Pro Tem Thomas asked for OHS to present update at HSN on September 17th.
- Overview of 2-part Landlord Subsidized Leasing Program (Track 3) – Landlord Participation Agreement and Tenant-Based Financial Assistance
- Commissioner Mendelsohn recommends Track 3 match the rapid rehousing program where the rent stair steps down both at move in, then at 3 months, 6 months, 9 months.
- Commissioner Ragan says monthly visits with case managers is not enough. Proposes once a week then after 60 days bi-weekly, then after a certain period they go to a month, so early on we can identify if there is a problem.
- Track 4 over Bond Implementation is still being worked through subcommittees.

7. Appointments to Subcommittees (Voting Item)

- Commissioner Mendelsohn stepped down as chair of Short-Term Solutions Subcommittee and nominated Commissioner Ragan as Chair; Commissioner Ragan accepts.
- Commissioner Mendelsohn made a motion to ratify and approve the subcommittee appointments as shown on the list distributed to the Commission, a copy of which is attached, but with the change that Commissioner Ragan will be chair of the Short-Term Solutions Subcommittee. Commissioner Owens seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

8. CHC Subcommittee Report

- Short-Term Solutions Subcommittee
 - Inclement Weather
 - Shelters are developing a proposal whereby they would take lead to train faith-based group's volunteers and program would be activated by Office of Homeless Solutions (OHS) at locations OHS previously certified. Subcommittee believes it is the city's responsibility, but this needs a lot more work.
 - Van Loop
 - Homeless Shuttle that goes to all the major locations a homeless individual may need to obtain services.
- Housing Subcommittee

Met on Tracks 3 & 4 of the Strategy; primarily focused on Track 3. Next two subsequent meetings on September 21st at 1pm and September 27th.
Recommendations made so far were to the Landlord Participation Agreement. They would like for the City to input less money as time goes by.

9. Public Comment

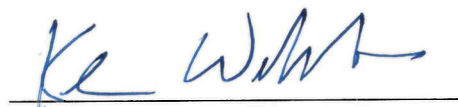
Robert Ceccarelli

10. Upcoming Events

No comment

11. Adjourn – 5:01pm

APPROVED BY:



Kenn Webb, Chair
Citizen Homelessness Commission