

Emergency Shelter Assessment Committee

One City Center

Thursday, July 16, 2020

9:00 am – 10:00 am

Minutes

Name	Organization
Adam Harr	City of Portland
George Rheault	Bayside Resident
Dan Coyne	United Way
Aaron Geyer	City of Portland
Jim Divine	HVJ
Tom Natalie	Milestone Recovery
Bill Higgins	HA4A
Anna Brewer	Preble Street
Heather Zimmerman	Preble Street
Cullen Ryan	CHOM
Kenneth Capron	Memory Works
Jonathan Sahrbeck	District Attorney
Ann Dodd-Collins	
Jess Falero	

Name	Organization
Norm Maze	Shalom House
Ginny Dill	Shalom House
Vickey Rand	CHOM
Amanda Methot	City of Portland
Meredith Pesce	Amistad
Brian Townsend	Amistad
Jeff Tardif	City of Portland
George Flores	MEJP
Jenny Stasio	Through These Doors
Harrison Deah	City of Westbrook
Sarah Michniewicz	BNA
Dee Clarke	HVJ
Ben Martineau	

- **Introductions**

- Starting with Governance Committee.
- Review and approval of the June 9, 2020 Draft Meeting Minutes.

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- Noted: Governance Committee discussion supplanted the opening agenda items and June meeting minutes must be voted on with the July minutes during the August meeting.
- **Governance Committee**
 - Dan gave a background of the committee which has met four times since March, asking:
 - What is our mission and history?
 - Worked to craft the following:
 - Membership eligibility
 - Voting, attendance, tracking attendance
 - ESAC leadership
 - Tri-chairs
 - Subcommittees
 - Data
 - Status
 - Length of meeting increased to 90 minutes
 - Membership Eligibility Vs. Participants
 - Keeping an open space
 - Voting members vs active participants.
 - ESAC as a whole body would need to define how a voting entity would be established.
 - Important for standards to exist
 - Needs a policy.
 - Important for each voting member be an organization that is a stakeholder
 - Not an individual
 - Not limited to non-profits.
 - Can be a grass roots entity.
 - Didn't want to make a list of qualifying entities were left off.
 - Voting, Attendance, tracking attendance
 - Voting
 - Quorum of eligible voting members
 - At least 80% affirmative votes
 - Attendance
 - Went to ESAC meetings 50% of the time in the previous 12 months.
 - ESAC Leadership
 - Tri Chairs City of Portland, United Way, HVJ
 - Executive Committee: Tri chairs + Amistad and Preble Street
 - Lived experience
 - Community organizations
 - Government

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- Rotation of meeting facilitation
 - Map out the year.
- More lived experience participation
- Peoples Housing Coalition represents people with lived experience and could join.
- o Subcommittees- Executive, LTS, Membership:
 - Proposed subcommittees:
 - Executive committee.
 - o Determine need for various subcommittees.
 - o Democratic agenda setting.
 - o Appointing members to fill needed functions.
 - o Should the executive committee make membership decisions?
 - Membership
 - o Determined by executive committee.
 - Data Subcommittee
 - o Determine data points and qualitative data for full picture of homelessness.
 - o Inclusion of unsheltered data.
 - CTOs
 - Release from jail or prison
 - o Full scope and charter to be developed by full committee.
- o ESAC Status – independent, advisory, council commit
 - Maintain independence from City Council but be in some sort of advisory capacity.
 - Discussion
 - Education
 - Problem Solving
 - Transparency
 - Collaborate initiatives
 - Jim invited Councilor Tae Chong who attended; the same invitation as given to Mayor Kate Snyder but she has not yet attended.
 - It would be welcome to be invited to a meeting, not DURING A PUBLIC HEARING.
- o Committee questions and discussion
 - George Said City is ensuring ESAC is doing the bare minimum.
 - Said March, April and May ESAC ignored the problem.
 - Anna said governance have gone over concerns to build ESAC power.
 - o More data points that ask why.

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- George said there needs to be a commitment from the City of Portland that ESAC will be able to ask tough questions and get answers, saying the City undercut CTO analysis.
- Are there criteria for CTOs or accountability and due process, citing CTOs from the teen shelter?
 - DA sees CTOs when CTOs are violated and says the CTOs he have seen has involved assaults of staff or other shelter guests.
 - CTO questions would be answered by City attorneys.
 - Preble Street: as an agency we want people to stay I shelter safely.
 - Willing to bring forward their policies.
 - At what point is there a way for teens to contest CTOs, if there are false accusations of violence; is there due process?
 - DA: This is a policy decision outside of the DA's office, (it is the municipal governments)
 - Why do CTOs last a year?
 - Why are they not shorter?
 - Could mental health issues be resolved that led to CTO behaviors?
 - CTOs have an appeals process
- HUD definition of homelessness is different than the education departments and H4A thinks education should be invited to discuss McKinney Vento.
- Low staffing problem at Florence House
 - Could other agencies help with casework?
 - Specific client with mobility issues.
 - At CoC there was agencies that said there are caseworkers that could help.
 - Also a lack of self advocacy to lack of technology resources no computers for applying for assistance during COVID.
- Dee wants to see more lived experience but is concerned that there would be a lack of voting rights if not attached to a group.
- Dee does not know if there are ground rules but did not like name calling and did not think the comments that the City is being Deaf, Dumb, and Mute were appropriate.
- MOTION to extend meeting
 - Dan moved to extend the August meeting.
 - Jim, HVJ tri-chair, supports it.
 - The motion was approved unanimously.
- **Homeless Voices for Justice**
 - There was no attendance at the Florence House action due to covid-19
 - You don't need a home to vote is difficult.

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- What address to people use to vote without Preble street?
 - Still able to use 5 Portland street as people are still receiving mail there.
 - People can use a family address, shelter address or other service provider address to vote.
- **Monthly Shelter Bed Usage Statistics**
 - o CTOs are down
 - o Placements are up compared to last year
 - o Evictions
 - Evictions will start again in August.
 - o The slides don't reflect the loss of bed capacity in Covid.
 - Milestone's 40 bed shelter is reduced to 34.
- **LTS Update**
 - o The group is meeting.
- **Federal, State and Local Legislation**
 - o Federal
 - Next stimulus will affect people's ability to pay rent.
 - Some CARES Act aid expiring
 - Latest included housing.
 - Infrastructure Bill
 - Package in Late June on Housing affordability.
 - Advocacy with Senator Collins
 - Specific asks: increasing maximum SNAP benefits by 15% (done during the 08' recession)
 - Increase the minimum SNAP benefit from \$16 to 30 dollars.
 - o State.
 - Eviction moratorium lifted next month.
 - FUSE depends on legislature reconvening.
- **Other Business**
 - o Can HVJ make a Facebook event for the Solstice; will answer after the meeting.
- **Next Meeting August 20, 2020.**
 - o **Discussion and voting on governance committee recommendations.**