



City of Portland, Maine Public Safety / Health & Human Services Committee

**April 8, 2014 ~ Room 209/City Hall
Meeting Minutes**

Committee Attendance: Chair Suslovic, Councilor Duson and Councilor Coyne.
Councilor Leeman was absent.

Staff Attendance: Doug Gardner; HHS, Trish McAllister; Corporation Counsel, Jen Thompson; Corporation Counsel, Deputy City Manager Sheila Hill-Christian, Mayor Michael Brennan and Chief Sauschuck, Police.

AGENDA ITEM 1 – Meeting Called to Order and Minutes Reviewed:

Meeting was called to order by Chair Suslovic at approximately 5:35 PM. Minutes were reviewed and a Motion was made to approve. All in favor.

AGENDA ITEM 2 – Food Truck Ordinance Update:

Jen Thompson gave an overview of the RFP revision and outlined the requirements changes as well as changes to zoning specifically parking in Lincoln Park. At the March Public Safety/HHS Committee meeting, staff agreed to amend the following:

1. The RFP to allow food trucks to cluster and fix a requirement that proscribes what types of food can be served
2. Amend the ordinance related to Compass park that bars food service in that area
3. Recommend the city dedicate four spaces on Congress Street adjacent to Lincoln Park for trucks.

Chair Suslovic opened the meeting up to Public Comment. Seeing none, Public Comment was closed.

Councilor Suslovic questioned how this item would proceed after Public Safety. According to Jen it would then proceed to the Transportation, Sustainability and Energy Committee, then possibly to the Planning Board. The Committee debated and decided that a correspondence will go to the Transportation, Sustainability/Energy Committee and give them the option of reviewing or passing on directly to the Planning Board.

A Motion was made to allow changes to the zoning specifically parking in Lincoln Park. 2nd and Passed unanimous.

Jen gave an overview of the 2nd piece which is the parking in the parks. Committee discussed various proposed times such as M-Fri., 10-2 PM. Signage and parking regulations were discussed. Councilor Coyne suggested bagging the meters for 1 season, Chair Suslovic would like to see 4 spaces reserved for food truck use only M-Sat, 10-2.

A Motion was made, 2nd and passed unanimously.

The 3rd piece was the amended RFP that Jen gave an overview of.

Councilors discussed and Jen explained there needs to be some criteria for bidding, the Amendment tries to clarify this. The Committee continued to debate the intent, Chair Suslovic thought that food trucks wanted to have the option of moving around and not be stationary. Councilor Duson wants to see the food truck market open up.

A Motion was proposed for RFP at any City park, 2nd with questions and comments.

Chair Suslovic indicated he will not support the RFP process. He feels a simple application will enable the food trucks to move around. He does not remember hearing from food truck vendors that exclusivity was an issue.

Councilor Coyne amended the Motion w/exclusivity built in. 2nd by Councilor Duson removing the fruit and vegetable requirement. All in favor 2-1 w/Chair Suslovic opposing.

AGENDA ITEM 4 – Communication on GA Audit Report (taken out of Order at request of Chair:

Doug gave an update and overview of this audit process. The Dept. of HHS wants a presumption of 1-night only in order to be GA eligible at all City shelters. The City is appealing this with an April 18th deadline to file.

Councilor Duson questioned if the audit process is being misused and if other jurisdictions are falling under this. Doug indicated the City has administered GA this way for 17 years.

Councilor Coyne concurs with Councilor Duson. Chair Suslovic echoed as well and offered any assistance or response that may be needed from the Committee.

Chair indicated that no public comment will be allowed as it is a non-action item.

AGENDA ITEM 3- Healthcare for the Homeless Update:

Chair Suslovic introduced Doug who began with an overview of Sheila Hill-Christian's memo and updated the Committee on the City being awarded the HRSA transitional funding grant to run through August 31st, then the 120 day close out with final closure on December 31st. He explained the amount awarded was not the full amount they hoped for and services will now be ramped down as follows:

- April 14th the Clinic will be open 4 days a week
- May 29th Clinic will stop seeing medical patients
- June 12th Medical Clinic will cease services

The target date for PCHC to open at 63 Preble Street is Tuesday, April 22nd /8:00 AM-2:00 PM. Patients can also access healthcare at 180 Park Avenue which is open six days per week and evenings.

Dental services will remain Monday through Thursday until Monday May 5th at which time it will be reduced to 3 days per week until August 27th. More definitive dates to follow.

Behavioral Health Services will continue to be offered at HCH Monday-Thursday until November 26th, 2014. Individuals enrolled in HCH's medication assisted substance abuse treatment program (MAT) were transferred to Catholic Charities during March due to the uncertainty of HCH's pending closure. Staff that will continue includes 2 Front Desk administrative staff full time. 1 –Outreach Worker, 5 days a week and 1 Program Manager.

Leslie Brancato introduced herself and her team and thanked Sheila Hill-Christian for her cooperation and support.

Leslie gave a PowerPoint presentation and accepted questions from the Committee following it.

Councilor Coyne thanked Leslie, Kathleen and staff in attendance. And questioned what will happen moving forward when former patients need / want their medical records. Doug Explained there will be 1 staff member who will be hired to stay on until the clinic is officially closed.

Doug clarified the 4000 homeless number mentioned and explained the HRSA definition of homeless.

Councilor Duson thanked the staff for their work and questioned if the collaborative needed transitional funding to accomplish as she would like to be able to allocate a 1 time amount. She asked how the transition was going financially and questioned if there were outstanding bills that PCHC still owed the City?

Doug responded that although this is not his process, there are in fact outstanding bills that have not been settled from the decoupling agreement. He also indicated they are working on closing this out. Sheila concurred that there is a disagreement over the amount that is owed to the city.

Leslie indicated she is looking to bring this to closure but is concerned about spending money on audits to resolve and will look to HRSA to provide support.

Councilor Duson questioned the dental services and asked what was the current commitment from the City for Dental and Behavioral Health. Doug explained that the School Based Dental Program will be expanded, Behavioral Health is contingent on funding.

Sheila indicated that PCHC should be the agency making these policy requests but that the city will be providing data. Councilor Duson questioned if we will be reallocating these funds and would like to see a budget request ASAP.

Doug wanted to acknowledge the good work the staff at Health Care for the Homeless has been doing during this transition. Councilor Duson echoed that she feels it is a testament to Doug's management style and is very appreciative of it.

Leslie thanked the Committee and appreciated the ability to present tonight. Councilor Duson thanked Leslie for her leadership and her patients around this process.

Chair Suslovic questioned what has the city's contribution to the HCH been and what dollars have been put towards it? He would also like to see PCHC close those gaps that were indicated in the presentation and questioned what monies would be needed to close them.

No additional questions, Chair thanked Sheila for her responsiveness as well as Doug and the Clinic staff. He requested that PCHC give the Committee periodic written updates.

With no further business to attend to, the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 PM.

Next meeting is scheduled for May 13th at 5:30 PM.