



David J. Jackson
Fire Chief, Fire Department

Health & Human Services Committee

June 13th, 2017
5:30 PM/Room 209
City Hall,
Meeting Minutes

Committee Attendance:

Belinda S. Ray, Chair (District 1), Brian Batson (District 3), Nicholas M. Mavodones, Jr. (At Large)

City Staff Attendance:

Director of Health & Human Services, Dawn Stiles; Police Chief, Michael Sauschuck; Fire Chief, David Jackson; Director of Planning and Urban Development, Jeff Levine; Social Services, Rob Parritt; Corporation Counsel, Victoria Morales

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

Meeting was called to order at approximately 5:30PM

Chair Ray moved to accept minutes from previous meeting. The motion was seconded with all in favor.

AGENDA ITEM 2 – Sober/Recovery Houses in Portland

Jeff Levine- addressed the committee and gave an overview regarding the “*Group Housing Types in Residential Zones*” (see handout #1) the handout outlines variances, similar use, zones identifying where permitted, & not permitted

Victoria Morales – addressed the committee regarding regulations concerning recovery/sober houses where recovering addicts are protected by Fair Housing Act & the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The Fair Housing Act prohibits local governments using zoning and other land use requirements to discriminate against housing needs of persons with disabilities.

Steve Cotreau- addressed the committee that he had hopes that he could come to the committee and request for sober houses all to requires MARR certifications but found there is more to just requesting an ordinance change. Victoria Morales clarified you can regulate, just has to be the same as everyone else. He continued the discussion with a detailed explanation to what a sober /recovery home is. He explained a sober home in assisting people back on the path to sobriety where people recovering from addiction can live in a supervised and **sober** environment with structure and rules, i.e. mandatory curfews, chores as well as therapeutic meetings. These houses typically are self-run. A sober house is a drug deterrent environment.

Sarah Coupe – Founder & operator of Grace’s House for Women in Portland. Sarah gave the committee a detailed explanation on how her house is operated (see handout #2 - Bylaws of Maine Association of Recovery Residences) Sarah gave an overview of the handouts she provided.

Council Mavodones asked in regards to a sober house not running well - What are the indicators? What would that look like? Steve Answered – a house with active users, other behaviors brought up by other house members, word of mouth spreads in a small community where everybody knows everybody. Council Mavodones requested that Dr. Sprinkles be able to add to the discussion and Chair Ray approved.



David J. Jackson
Fire Chief, Fire Department

Dr. Ron Sprinkles -added to the discussion that he started a project about a year and a half ago looking to see how many houses recovery houses there are from Hallowell down Old Orchard Beach (61 houses as April 2017) he found some that have some that are furnished with licensed practitioners and that they are registered with the state. Councilor Mavodones asked how many (sober) homes are located in Portland. Dr. Sprinkles responded that (50) of the houses are located in Portland.

Councilor Batson asked if Steve has seen any success with other areas in regulating sober houses. Steve said that he found Massachusetts has had great success.

Chair Ray thanked everyone and addressed the committee and will refer to City Manager for guidance in moving forward.

AGENDA ITEM 3 - Noise Ordinance: Update from staff

Chief Sauschuck – gave an overview from provided handout material (see handout #3)

- Update current city ordinance re: outdoor speakers that are not allowed under existing entertainment license
- Prohibit the attachment of speakers on exterior of buildings- preservation ordinance
- Streamline enforcement
- Created noise mitigation plan
- Sound oversight committee active - Chief Sauschuck will continue to work with Andy Downs (Parks & Recreation Facilities) on gathering data from sound meters to establish a baseline

Chair Ray spoke on entertainment licenses surrounding speakers, how do you determine what is allowed for speakers indoors vs. outdoors. Jeff Levine added enforcement by historic preservation is a challenge. Chair Ray would like to see consistency across the board for noise recommendations going forward.

Chair Ray thanked Chief Sauschuck.

AGENDA ITEM 4 – Shelter: Next Steps

Dawn Stiles introduced Steve Weatherhead –an architect volunteering on this project. Steve gave an overview to possible next steps going forward for a new shelter

- Budget
- Site selection process
- Building committee
 - Assessing zoning requirements
 - Pro's & con's in developing
 - Understanding of budget process
- RFP process
- Square footage requirement (How many beds needed?)

Chair Ray addressed the committee, site selection process going forward will require a civil engineer and analysis of accessibilities for services required by the shelter.

Rob Parritt addressed the committee that he will work with others on this project and will gather more information and come back in September with a timeline for this project. Until then, he will continue to engage with community of Bayside and work with the current needs of the building he is in now.

Meeting adjourned 7:24 p.m.

Portland, Maine



Yes. Life's good here.

David J. Jackson
Fire Chief, Fire Department

DRAFT