



David J. Jackson
Fire Chief, Fire Department

Health & Human Services Committee

**October 24th, 2017
5:30 PM/Room 24
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; Fire Chief, David Jackson; Police Chief, Michael Sauschuck; Director Social Services, David MacLean; Social Services, Aaron Geyer; Oxford Street Shelter, Rob Parritt

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

Meeting was called to order at approximately 5:34PM

Chair Ray asked Rob Parritt if he would like to make an announcement. Rob stepped forward announced that the Oxford Street shelter would be moving forward to a 24 hour operation. This will in effect once staff is hired. They will be adding a Housing Specialist. They will be adding a storage location as well, and an additional bathroom unit.

Chair Ray had a few corrections (names misspelled, and to please add that the committee did in fact vote) all from previous meeting. Chair Ray continued moved to accept minutes from previous meeting. The motion was seconded with all in favor.

AGENDA ITEM 2 – Shelter Design

Proposed design that this is a draft design Chair Ray gave a detailed overview to what this entails. Chair Ray added there is no location as of yet as well as no funding.

Steve Weatherhead highlighted that this is just in design phase. Steve took the information from the meeting held in September

- Expanded the dayroom incorporated a variety of space
- multi-purpose room added
- The kitchen is similar to a set-up that a school would use
- The clinic (see diagram) is off to the left wing with a separate entrance
- Sleeping areas with 2 foot aisles
- 1:9 /1:8 counts for toilets.
- Overall square footage increased from 28k to 35k
- Tables went from circular to rectangle
- Increased the storage

Councilor Batson asked about sleeping during the day if needed. Steve addressed sleeping areas where partition space is can be utilized to have people sleep during the day if needed.

Dawn Stiles answered the question in regards to having a two-story shelter vs. one story. Having a two-story building they would have to duplicate costs such as exits, stairways, bathrooms etc. With the exemption of land. There may not be a site big enough for what we want.

<http://www.portlandmaine.gov/2098/Planning-for-New-Shelter-Services>

Chair Ray opened Public Comment at this time 5:50 p.m.

Curt Sachs- a licensed architect stake holder thru his volunteer work at Preble Street. Noticed some improvements. However, the bed layout is worse than the last time. The exit doors are unprotected, no security, not giving enough visual. If you go ahead to a one story concept - The kitchen is under sized. Sees more bathrooms, looks great. Feels it is inappropriate for committee to be looking at one story concept. Dawn gave an example on 1 vs 2 story this would share the same plumbing of a 2 story building. Will need a space meeting in order to progress. Stake holders were not involved in this process. Very dangerous to showing a schematic plan. It would be great to be involved in this project.

George Rheault, Bayside- ORIGINAL STAFF VERSION:

George Rheault, Bayside- disappointed in a single story concept. There are pro's and con's to this layout. Where in the city would this go? Is this possible in a city plan? Has noticed around the country that other cities ex: Salt Lake City, moved three shelters into a one size fits all and it failed. Drug Dealers would love this. This is a single minded focus. Be honest. Have a town hall meeting show us what has been done elsewhere and then continue the conversation.

Amended VERSION:

George Rheault, West Bayside. Disappointed that the City remains solely focused on a single-story concept to the complete exclusion of alternatives. He cited a Los Angeles Times story that specifically discussed how Salt Lake City is right now moving away from a consolidated single mega-shelter and dispersing those services into 3 distinct locations. All of the problems of the current Oxford Street shelter would be present in the vicinity of a new single-story mega-shelter. Indeed drug dealers would welcome their clientele all being located in one convenient place versus across multiple sites. There are pros and cons to a single-story facility as well as a multiple-story structure. Committee should be honest. Ask City staff to identify what are the possible city-owned sites available for a spread-out single-story facility. Is such a site even feasible after such an analysis? Additionally, the Committee should sponsor a town hall showing all the recent shelter projects completed across the nation in the last 15 years to help deepen the conversation beyond just a single-story focus.

FYI - here is a link to the LA Times article I cited: <http://www.latimes.com/nation/la-na-utah-shelters-20170707-story.html>

Scott M- A space program would help, that will start with this process, then start developing- we should be looking at a 2 story solution; will need to get an idea area for square footage. There maybe a few sites available – maybe have sleeping quarters downstairs and offices support could be upstairs. The layout of the dorm needs to be broken up to make more humane. Also, as you development sites look at activities to keep people active-likes the courtyard concept. Lastly, look at confidentiality for people having conversations in a large area for phone calls.

Jim Devine- Advocate for voice from Homeless for Justice, but is an electrician, mentioned that people said what he already wanted to say to the committee. Some people don't like sleeping in one large room people make them feel claustrophobic having people too close together in the sleeping quarters. Likes the suggestion on having 6 smaller shelters across the city more neighborhood experience.

Steve Hirshon –I know you can have a list of what you want, but how can you put a design out before knowing where it is going to go? Location possibilities, can't imagine if you were to put a shelter in a

neighborhood in for example, moving a shelter into Riverton – can't see people wanting a big shelter in their neighborhood. Should take a gentle approach to this in designing the new shelter.

Jan Bindas-Tennwe(spoke of behalf of Mark Swann from Preble Street where he couldn't be present for this meeting) thankful, gracious, committed, excited about the extension of Oxford Street moving to a 24 hour operations. Continue to be concerned about how the committee is moving forward on this topic. Three minute to discussion to the committee is not enough in a public comments session. A single story design will limit to where a shelter can go geographically. Should look at schools. Did do a little bit of researches of best practices across the country, some show 2, and 3 story buildings. Urban data is realistic. (See data handout) Preble Street would like to be a part of more discussions especially if they can go more than 3 minutes. Let us in.

Sara Michinewicz – By definition of an emergency shelter Emergency shelter is not intended for a long term stay. If Rob could answer this. What is the max length of stay? Services offered? How will this dovetail with smaller shelters



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Laura Cannon- had a request on not being able to locate was not able to locate the updated web page on the HHS page – once found the info there is good information on this page, should be better indexed, actually found link on Chair Ray's blog

Shawn Kerwin- multi story, good. Have you thought about 2nd & 3rd usage to provide more flex space.

Norman Maze- Shalom House- Congratulated Rob and his team! Invaluable learning tools

Chair Ray closed public Comment at 6:32 p.m.

Chair Ray & Committee Discussion; take this time to address the questions proposed during public comment.

How can we propose a design with no location? This is a concept design, diagram. What would it look like? This is a process, when we find a space we may find a 1 story accessibility space could constrain our decision. Keep in mind this not the final step. Just a process.

Councilor Mavodones asked, have we looked at square footage on an analysis that may fit in our city? NO. Can we ask staff to look at what is available?

Dawn answered – a RFP will be going out in a few weeks (required to do) Which will be helpful, this will start the final process. Will not be looking for space until we are confident in what we want. Dawn spoke to the fact she wanted to see what “we” want, and has been asking people.

Councilor Mavodones - If planning on 1 story would Planning be able to give us a sense of what we are looking at, if we believe a one story best. This could drive in creating a baseline by city staff. Chair Ray is going to ask if this information could be ready by next council meeting.

Chair Ray clarified the number of beds – One speaker suggested there were 186. There were 211

Rob responded to question on length of stay at the shelter- in a 1 year period average is 35/40 days. This number seems to be decreasing. Majority seem to stay less than 30 days if they get housing and never come back. Some (5 %/10%) of people may need to stay longer

Councilor Mavodones asked what is considered a long term stay? Rob Parritt - In a 1 year period people that stay up to 180 days or check-ins that equal up to a 180 days in the one year period.

Rob Parritt continued that all services have to hit numerous bench marks for Oxford Street Shelter to continue to receive funds for operations. Hoping that with the new shelter and services that it will be providing with keep clients less than 30 days. We want to decrease numbers. Homeless services is moving into the right direction.

Chair Ray- responded better links for the web page, yes we can fix this, add to agenda (it is there)



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Councilor Batson- No questions, but has a request. Encouraged the committee to look at sites before falling short on an actual location. Prior to any votes would like to look at requesting a cost analysis for 1 story vs 2 story (time frame post-election) before the workshop. If possible. Just be sure the location falls where it needs to be such as ¼ mile of metro.

Councilor Mavodones – presented the questions of prep of workshop

What is the process?

What type of analysis? With architect on board

Timeline?

Outline? What are the best practices? Would like a general idea

What are the staffing cost associated with a 2-story layout? Would find this helpful

Steve Weatherhead responded that a 2 story is possible, but could marry to a site, this exercise has stimulated a lot of great deal of conversation. Does it make sense to keep coming up with a fictional drawing with no site?

Councilor Batson, this is a numbers game, but added this is a public process could and be confusing to the public but encourages to have a two story layout, but could save money on land, and will help visually

Chair Ray – hopeful prior to Councilor workshop will ask the Planning Staff to look for a location; will be looking at 1 story vs 2 story layout, Cost analysis with operation cost included; this will help with elevators cost etc., the operations piece very important. A diagram of a multi-level would be helpful

Councilor Mavodones asked how much we are paying Steve.

Steve added he is doing this pro bono

Chair Ray reminded everyone that the city is looking to create one emergency shelter to replace Oxford Street. However, if someone else from another entity wants to open a smaller shelter - zoning is changing for the requirements for someone else to open a smaller shelter.

Timeline will work on having more conversations more than 3 minutes.

Next Step:

- Council Workshop in December
- RFP going out in a few weeks
- request land info

Meeting adjourned



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AGENDA ITEM 3-

AGENDA ITEM 4-

Meeting adjourned 7:24 p.m.