

REGULAR MEETING OF THE
CULVER CITY
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON
HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS
CULVER CITY, CALIFORNIA

November 14, 2023
7:00 p.m.

Call to Order & Roll Call

Chair Daniel Behrendt called the regular meeting of the Culver City Advisory Committee on Housing and Homelessness to order at 7:04 p.m. in the Patio Room.

Present: Daniel Behrendt, Chair
Amy Cherness, Committee Member
Darryl Cherness, Committee Member
Jonathon Dilworth, Committee Member
Rachel Feldstein, Committee Member
Khin Khin Gyi, Committee Member
Leonardo Wilborn, Committee Member

Absent: Emily Dibiny, Committee Member
Robert Gagnier, Committee Member

Staff: Tevis Barnes, Director of Housing and Homelessness
Christina Stoffers, Housing Programs Manager

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The Pledge of Allegiance

The Advisory Committee on Housing and Homelessness recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

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Public Comment for Items NOT On The Agenda

Tevis Barnes, Director of Housing and Homelessness, indicated that no requests to speak had been received.

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Receipt of Correspondence

Tevis Barnes, Director of Housing and Homelessness, indicated that no correspondence had been received.

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Consent Calendar

Item C-1

Approval of Minutes for the Regular Advisory Committee on Housing and Homelessness Meetings of September 19, 2023 and October 19, 2023

Discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding the need for additional edits to the October 19, 2023 meeting minutes and staff agreed to make edits and bring back the minutes for consideration at the December meeting.

THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS APPROVED MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 19, 2023 AS WRITTEN.

THE MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: DANIEL BEHRENDT, AMY CHERNESS, DARRYL CHERNESS,
JONATHON DILWORTH, RACHEL FELDSTEIN, KHIN KHIN GYI,
LEONARDO WILBORN
NOES: NONE
ABSENT: EMILY DIBINY, ROBERT GAGNIER

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Order of the Agenda

Item A-3 was heard before Item A-2.

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Action Items

Item A-1

Election of ACOHH Chair and Vice Chair

Discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding interest in serving; the remaining term for the current Chair; individuals at risk of being removed from the Committee; new Members; and nominations.

MOVED BY MEMBER DARRYL CHERNESS AND SECONDED BY MEMBER RACHEL FELDSTEIN THAT THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS APPOINT DANIEL BEHRENDT TO SERVE AS THE CHAIR OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024.

THE MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: DANIEL BEHRENDT, AMY CHERNESS, DARRYL CHERNESS,
JONATHON DILWORTH, RACHEL FELDSTEIN, KHIN KHIN GYI,
LEONARDO WILBORN
NOES: NONE
ABSENT: EMILY DIBINY, ROBERT GAGNIER

Additional discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding duties of the Vice Chair as stated in the bylaws; interest in serving; and length of the appointment.

MOVED BY MEMBER DARRYL CHERNESS AND SECONDED BY MEMBER AMY CHERNESS THAT THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS APPOINT KHIN KHIN GYI TO SERVE AS THE VICE CHAIR OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024.

THE MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: DANIEL BEHRENDT, AMY CHERNESS, DARRYL CHERNESS,
JONATHON DILWORTH, RACHEL FELDSTEIN, KHIN KHIN GYI,
LEONARDO WILBORN
NOES: NONE
ABSENT: EMILY DIBINY, ROBERT GAGNIER

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Discussion of ACOHH Attendance as it Relates to the ACOHH Bylaws

Chair Daniel Behrendt discussed the bylaws.

Discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding excused absences; the need for full representation; difficulty achieving a quorum; workload; number of meetings missed by Member Emily Dibiny in 2023; illness; Member responsibility; clearly defining excused absences; potential impacts of the SAG strike; courtesy outreach; directly reaching out to staff to alert them of non-attendance of a meeting to ensure there is a quorum; clarification that staff has not reached out to Member Emily Dibiny; the basic responsibility to attend meetings; effort involved in alerting staff; selection by the City Council to serve on the body; fundamental requirements of being a Member; showing respect for the Committee and for staff; speculation as to reasons for absences; and acting expeditiously to resolve the long-standing issue.

A motion was proposed and seconded to recommend that the City Council remove Member Emily Dibiny from the Committee and appoint someone who can attend meetings and be more involved.

Additional discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding contacting the City Clerk's Office; the need to agendaize removal for the next meeting; staff follow up to see if Member Emily Dibiny has been ill; and making a recommendation to the City Council that the Member be removed for failure to adhere to the bylaws.

The proposed motion was withdrawn.

Chair Daniel Behrendt moved to direct that staff contact Member Emily Dibiny to confirm illness or other form of absence and report back to ACOHH at the December 2023 meeting as part of an agenda item to consider her status, and if Ms. Dibiny is unwilling to be a part of the ACOHH, then ACOHH would recommend to the City Council and City Clerk that Ms. Dibiny be removed and replaced with another member of the public.

Further discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding availability of the bylaws to people applying to serve; the ability of applicants to do research and understand what is entailed; and clarification that proof is not required for reasons provided.

MOVED BY MEMBER DANIEL BEHRENDT AND SECONDED BY MEMBER JONATHON DILWORTH THAT THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS DIRECT STAFF TO MAKE GOOD FAITH EFFORTS TO CONTACT MEMBER EMILY DIBINY TO CONFIRM ILLNESS OR OTHER FORM OF ABSENCE AND, IF THEY DO NOT HEAR BACK FROM MS. DIBINY WITHIN ONE WEEK, CONSIDER THAT TO BE FAILURE TO RESPOND, AND REPORT BACK TO ACOHH AT THE DECEMBER 2023 MEETING AS PART OF AN AGENDA ITEM TO CONSIDER HER STATUS AND IF MS. DIBINY IS UNWILLING TO BE A PART OF THE ACOHH, THEN ACOHH RECOMMEND TO THE CITY COUNCIL AND CITY CLERK THAT MS. DIBINY BE REMOVED AND REPLACED WITH ANOTHER MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC.

THE MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: DANIEL BEHRENDT, AMY CHERNESS, DARRYL CHERNESS,
JONATHON DILWORTH, RACHEL FELDSTEIN, KHIN KHIN GYI,
LEONARDO WILBORN

NOES: NONE

ABSENT: EMILY DIBINY, ROBERT GAGNIER

Discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding Member agreement to contact staff if they are going to be absent; Member duties; being familiar with the bylaws; the fact that if a Member fails to alert staff to an absence, it is considered unexcused; a suggestion to amend the bylaws; involvement of the Legal Department; excused vs. justified absences; RSVPing for meetings; Brown Act issues with sending email to everyone; and the City Council decision to eliminate the Fiesta La Ballona Committee.

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Item A-2

Follow up on LifeArk Tour That Took Place on October 19, 2023

Discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding appreciation for the tour; size of the bedrooms; efficiency units; understanding areas of improvement; possible actions the ACOHH could take; plans for future homeless developments in the City; the focus on permanent

housing over supportive housing; the Methodist Church project; a potential housing development with Glorja Kaufman; the Venice Parking lot; modular housing; support for fast and cheap projects; a suggestion that LifeArk study available sites for permanent supportive housing; long-term leases with the Virginia Parking Lot; developers interested in the site; funding; City Council direction in order to have an exclusive negotiation agreement; that fact that LifeArk is a non-profit; different procedures for working with non-profits; a suggestion to hold a workshop to educate people about how non-profits can build housing for the homeless better and more efficiently; the Outreach and Engagement Subcommittee; the inability of the City to have exclusivity with a developer without City Council direction; a suggestion that LifeArk indicate to the City Council that they want to conduct a study; the ability of the ACOHH to express support for LifeArk in an agendized item at a future meeting; a suggestion that the ACOHH explore unique and valuable action-oriented outcomes; educating each other and the community; the ability of the ACOHH to agendize an item at the next meeting to consider making a recommendation that staff get permission to agendize a presentation to the City Council; the need to get feedback from LifeArk as to whether they want to make a presentation to the City Council; interest in the lot by other entities; financial or business relationships; and potential Member recusals.

Member Jonathon Dilworth and Chair Daniel Behrendt each clarified their relationship with LifeArk.

The Committee agreed that Member Jonathon Dilworth would make an inquiry to LifeArk and report back at the next meeting as to whether LifeArk wants to provide a presentation to the City Council in January 2024 about their firm and potential site plans for the Venice Boulevard lot.

Additional discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding the Wende project and use of the Community Garden site for affordable housing.

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Item A-4

Discussion of 2024 Homeless Count

Discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members

regarding internal vs. external Counts; permission from LAHSA (Los Angeles Housing Services Authority) to conduct an internal count; the old version of the count involving the public; other cities that want to do internal counts; hidden encampments; scheduling a Subcommittee meeting; the ability of subcommittees to meet virtually; volunteers; and budget.

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Public Comment for Items Not on the Agenda

Discussion ensued between meeting attendees, staff, and Committee Members regarding Police-Ride-Alongs; outreach on Tuesdays; staffing; and the annual Civilian Police Academy.

Chair Daniel Behrendt invited public comment.

The following member of the public addressed the Committee:

James Richardson, reported being unhoused; inquired about mailboxes for unhoused individuals; and he received clarification regarding motel vouchers, required documentation, and Project Homekey.

Tevis Barnes, Director of Housing and Homelessness, indicated that staff would research the possibility of mailboxes.

Discussion ensued between meeting members, staff, and Committee Members regarding ways to increase funding; funding from non-tax sources; innovation technologies; corporate giving; Costco; challenges with making connections; services available through the Exodus program; lack of a drop in center in the City if someone is not attached to a program; and checking with the owners of the motels to see if they would be willing to accept mail.

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Items from Advisory Committee on Housing and Homelessness Members/Staff

Discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding occupancy levels at Safe Sleep and the motels; meal service through Every Table; mobile clinics available through Health Care in Action; staffing of the Mobile Crisis Team; Member assistance with a wellness fair to introduce the Mobile Crisis Team in February; the available unit for Police and

Fire at Project Homekey; agreement by the CCFD (Culver City Fire Department) to look into additional flu and COVID shots for unhoused individuals as part of Culver City Homeless Programming; pneumonia shots for those over 65 at Safe Sleep; and the date for the next meeting.

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Adjournment

There being no further business, at 8:31 p.m., the Culver City Advisory Committee on Housing and Homelessness adjourned to December 19, 2023.

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TEVIS BARNES

SECRETARY of the Culver City Advisory Committee on Housing
and Homelessness, Culver City, California

APPROVED

Daniel Behrendt

CHAIR of the Advisory Committee on Housing and
Homelessness, Culver City, California

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that, on the date below written, these minutes were filed in the Office of the City Clerk, Culver City, California and constitute the Official Minutes of said meeting.

Jeremy Bocchino
CITY CLERK

Date