

REGULAR MEETING OF THE
CULVER CITY
COMMITTEE ON HOMELESSNESS
CULVER CITY, CALIFORNIA

December 8, 2020
7:00 p.m.

Call to Order & Roll Call

Vice Chair Lipman called the regular meeting of the Culver City Committee on Homelessness to order at 7:10 p.m. via Webex.

Present: Mark Lipman, Vice Chair
Daniel Behrendt, Committee Member
Darryl Cherness, Committee Member
Rachel Feldstein, Committee Member
Khin Khin Gyi, Committee Member
Karlo Silbiger, Committee Member

Staff: Tevis Barnes, Housing Programs Administrator
Christina Stouffers, Homeless Outreach Coordinator

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The Pledge of Allegiance

The Committee on Homelessness recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

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Public Comment – Items NOT on the Agenda

Vice Chair Lipman invited public comment.

The following members of the public addressed the Committee:

Rebecca Rona, Culver City Equity and Human Relations Advisory Committee (EHRAC), discussed the appointment of Lieutenant Luis Martinez to the EHRAC; City Council revision of the process for selecting Labor Representatives; she asked for help recruiting a City employee to serve as a Labor

representative to the EHRAC; discussed the timeframe for submitting an application; time commitment required to serve; and she noted that the appointment would be made at the January City Council meeting and would begin service at the January EHRAC meeting.

Hannah reported that she was currently a student at UCLA and interning with Helen Chin, Assistant to the City Manager on Homelessness.

Discussion ensued between Committee Members and the speaker regarding the internship program; the Luskin School; and the final project.

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Receive and File Correspondence

Tevis Barnes, Housing Administrator, indicated that no correspondence had been received.

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Items from Committee on Homelessness Members/Staff

Member Silbiger received clarification regarding the timeline for filling the vacancy on the Committee on Homelessness.

Vice Chair Lipman reported attending the Housing Task Force meeting pertaining to the General Plan Update; discussed new housing units required by the state over the next 8 years; the need for innovative thinking to create affordable housing units; he indicated that he would distribute information to Committee Members and forward any comments from Committee Members to the Task Force; discussed ensuring that the needed affordable housing is built; the national campaign for a Homes Guarantee organized by People's Action; and new policy solutions being brought forward.

Discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding a suggestion to invite someone from the Current Planning department to make a presentation on Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) numbers, and impacts on housing and the future of Culver City.

Member Gyi proposed inviting a Culver City resident, currently attending UC Berkeley and working on modular housing units with a non-profit, to make a presentation to the Committee at a future meeting.

Vice Chair Lipman suggested that the student also provide a presentation to the City for modular housing at the Community Garden site at 10858 Culver Boulevard.

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Consent Calendar

Item C-1

Approval of Minutes for the Special Meeting on November 21, 2020

No minutes were available.

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Order of the Agenda

No changes were made.

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Action Items

Item A-1

Receive Nominations and Approve Selection of the Chair and Vice Chair

Vice Chair Lipman discussed the loss of Chair Gibson and her extensive experience; new Committee Members; the benefits of experience; leadership within the Committee; agendaizing items to be made into policy; and he proposed that he continue as Vice Chair, with Member Silbiger serving as Chair for the remainder of the fiscal year.

Vice Chair Lipman nominated Member Silbiger to serve as Chair of the Committee on Homelessness until June 2021, and Member Gyi seconded the motion.

Discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members

regarding experience working with staff; best qualifications and skills to serve as Chair and Vice Chair; crafting agendas for meetings with staff; facilitating meetings; presenting on behalf of the Committee in public meetings and in front of the City Council; representing the Committee in outreach; building leadership capabilities within the Committee to allow everyone to have the experience of serving as the Chair; the recent retreat; and clarification that the appointment would be for a partial term.

Member Behrendt nominated Member Feldstein to serve as Chair due to her extensive experience in the field.

Member Feldstein declined the nomination, noting that she felt the need to spend more time on the Committee before leading it.

MOVED BY VICE CHAIR LIPMAN, SECONDED BY MEMBER GYI AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE COMMITTEE ON HOMELESSNESS APPOINT MEMBER SILBIGER TO SERVE AS CHAIR THROUGH THE END OF FISCAL YEAR 2021.

Chair Silbiger thanked the Committee for the appointment and Vice Chair Lipman for his leadership during the interim period.

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Item A-2

DISCUSSION - 2021 LOS ANGELES HOMELESS SERVICES AUTHORITY (LAHSA) GREATER LOS ANGELES HOMELESS COUNT Discussion on conducting the 2021 Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count during the COVID-19 Public Health Crisis

Chair Silbiger provided background on the past participation of Culver City in the Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count.

Tavis Barnes, Housing Administrator, discussed components of the annual county-wide, point in time Count; the intent of LAHSA to ask Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for an exemption from conducting the Count; communication with other cities regarding their request for exemption from the unsheltered Count; available Homeless Management Information System information; a request to the City Council that Culver City still conduct the unhoused Count; the proposal that the Count be conducted by staff; coordination with the Police and

Fire Departments; continued work on logistics; using staff in plain clothes and unmarked cars; conducting a daytime Count of the Ballona Creek area; concern that there could be a dramatic increase in homelessness; the potential role of the Committee; continued work in 2022; and outreach to volunteers from previous years to update them.

Discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding the number of volunteers participating in the past; willingness to help; concern as to whether there are enough officers to conduct the Count in one night; the purpose behind postponing the Count; different options available; operational execution; potential for inaccuracies; limitations due to COVID; actions of other communities; expertise of Police and Fire personnel; the need for data in order to develop programming to serve the community; consistency with the methodology of previous years; costs; staff time; assistance from St. Josephs staff; other alternatives; capturing a point in time; ensuring that people are not counted twice; length of time to conduct the Count; virtual training for volunteers from previous years who want to participate with those in their household; oversight of volunteers; City Council purview and direction; logistics; consistency of data; required frequency of the Count; funding based upon the size of the homeless population; the potential need for additional funding; the LAHSA extrapolations; work with the academic community to adjust methodology; the difficulty of capturing the full picture; and cities that do not fall under LAHSA.

Chair Silbiger observed Committee support for collecting the data; he noted questions around the best way to gather consistent data; he discussed community involvement; the importance of the data; and finding a way not to lose the opportunity for increased awareness of homelessness with the Annual Count.

Additional discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding use of Police Department drones; restrictions; department policy; privacy issues; limitations of drones; legal rights; understanding the technology; flexibility of the date; concern with a spike in COVID; the potential for a health lockdown; City staff as essential workers; ensuring that the public is not put in harm's way; coordination with the Annual Homeless Count Subcommittee; and finding a way to educate and engage previous volunteers.

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Item A-3

Subcommittee Appointments, Receive Nominations and Approve Recommendations

Appointments to the 2021 Homeless Count Subcommittee

Discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding the short time commitment required to serve on the 2021 Homeless Count Subcommittee; willingness to serve; and Vice Chair Lipman agreed to join Members Cherness and Feldstein in serving on the 2021 Homeless Count Subcommittee.

MOVED BY MEMBER CHERNESS, SECONDED BY MEMBER FELDSTEIN AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE COMMITTEE ON HOMELESSNESS APPOINT VICE CHAIR LIPMAN TO SERVE ON THE 2021 HOMELESS COUNT SUBCOMMITTEE.

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Item A-4

Discussion - Formation of a New Subcommittee - Budget and Finance

Discussion on the Formation of a New Subcommittee of the COH Overseeing Budget and Finance Recommendation to the Council Regarding Housing and Homelessness

Vice Chair Lipman felt that the proposed Budget and Finance Subcommittee would be an important component in being able to move forward with items; he discussed staff concerns with putting the time into managing the Subcommittee; and the need to identify funding sources and put serious proposals together.

Discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding whether there are enough Members available to serve; the bylaws; a suggestion to add the function to the Homeless Initiative Subcommittee and add a standing item to the regular agenda; staff time required for Subcommittees; support for re-thinking the agenda to make the budget discussion a key component of each agenda; ensuring that something is ready to present to the City Council for the March budget hearings; the budget process; fund procurement;

funding prioritization; direction from the City Manager and Finance Department; coordination with other bodies; a suggestion to invite the Housing Subcommittee of the City Council to a COH meeting; and it was noted that Committee consensus had been established at the COH Retreat in November to provide a report to the City Council on Committee priorities in January.

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Item A-5

DEBRIEF - COH RETREAT Receive a debrief on the approved program/project priorities set for the upcoming fiscal year. Priorities include: 1. Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) 2. Community Outreach, Education and Engagement 3. Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) (Direct Housing Program)

Tevis Barnes, Housing Administrator, discussed priorities: Permanent Supportive Housing and Direct Housing, ADUs, community outreach, education and engagement; messaging; getting ahead of projects and programs before there is pushback against them; expectations of staff moving forward to implement agreed upon priorities; and other thoughts and ideas.

Discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding the agreed upon short term goal of Safe Parking, and agreement to consider reallocation of money from the Landlord Fair for outreach.

Vice Chair Lipman moved to reallocate money from the Landlord Fair to other outreach programs.

Additional discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding City Council purview; formulating outreach and messaging; consideration of the best way to use the money for effective community outreach at the January Committee meeting; helping move the agreed upon items forward; next steps; preparing for the January agenda; availability of important data; matching the Housing Work Plan and the budget; connecting funding for each proposal; consideration of creating a budget for a direct housing pilot program; work of the Housing Navigator to launch the Safe Parking program and the ADU program; the importance of creating the database of property owners; direction from the City Council on how to

move forward; and the plan that Safe Parking move forward in February.

Vice Chair Lipman reported that the Existing Conditions Report from the General Plan Update had indicated that there were currently 830 vacant units in Culver City, 375 of which are for rent, with the balance itemized as "other"; he discussed bolstering landlord incentives; and he indicated that he had emailed the information to staff, who agreed to follow up with the Planning Department.

Chair Silbiger discussed project priorities; items for the next meeting including: determining an effective use for the \$5,000 allocated for outreach, combining the Work Plan and budget matrices to allow for a better understanding of what monies are available and how that fits with priorities, continuing the budget discussion, and consideration of the Direct Housing proposal being prepared by Vice Chair Lipman; acknowledgement that Safe Parking is the first project coming forward; and he noted the value in getting recommendations to the City Council.

Vice Chair Lipman noted that the National Campaign for Housing Homes Guarantee had been meant to make a presentation at the December meeting, and he agreed to help staff work to reschedule in January or February.

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Public Comment for Items Not on the Agenda

Chair Silbiger invited public comment.

No public comment was received.

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Receive and File Correspondence

None.

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December 8, 2020

Items from Committee on Homelessness Members (Continued)

Discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding the date of the next meeting.

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Adjournment

There being no further business, at 9:04 p.m., the Culver City Committee on Homelessness adjourned to a regular meeting to be held at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 12, 2021.

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TEVIS BARNES
SECRETARY of the Culver City Committee on Homelessness,
Culver City, California

APPROVED

KARLO SILBIGER
CHAIR of the Committee on 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 Green
CITY CLERK

Date