

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

December 4, 2018
7:00 p.m.

Call to Order & Roll Call

The regular meeting of the Culver City Committee on Homelessness was called to order at 7:09 p.m. in the Dan Patacchia Room at City Hall.

Present: Karlo Silbiger, Chair
Kim Gibson, Vice Chair
Ira Diamond, DPM, Committee Member
Mark Lipman, Committee Member
Melissa Vollbrecht, Committee Member
Deborah Wallace, Committee Member

Absent: John Helyar, Committee Member

Staff: Tevis Barnes, Housing Administrator
Ashleigh Blackman, Housing Authority Clerk

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Meeting attendees introduced themselves and provided background on themselves.

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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

Chair Silbiger invited public comment.

The following member of the audience addressed the Committee:

Dr. Mellow Desire discussed her work using theatre and the arts to empower homeless youth on Skid Row; announced Performing Arts Initiative auditions on December 15 in St. Andrews Park and asked that a representative from Culver City attend the event; discussed the need for consistent care; mobilizing services; partnering with homeless services; funding; the need for individualized, focused services; bringing homeless people into the discussion; and she distributed information to Committee Members.

Tavis Barnes, Housing Administrator, distributed information from the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) on the 2018-2019 Winter Shelter Program and she reported on efforts to get a full-time position for Tiffany Anderson.

Tiffany Anderson, St. Josephs Center, reported on her accomplishments during her first week.

Ms. Ellison expressed frustration with ineffective efforts to help the homeless; discussed homeless people who do not fit the criteria; health issues; people who present well; the need for an advocate; and excessive paperwork.

Discussion ensued between meeting attendees, staff and Committee Members regarding the need for services; waiting lists; people who are unable to get help; numbers vs. people's lives; the need to bring homeless people into the discussion; policy suggestions; reporting issues to Housing staff; regulations; shame; providing social security numbers; the disconnect; funding that does not trickle down; inexperienced staff; the need for real solutions; issues at LAHSA; and the role of the Committee.

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Consent Calendar

Item C-1

Approval of Minutes for the Regular Meeting of October 30, 2018

Member Lipman noted that the Committee had agreed to agendaize a discussion of Emergency Shelters and Veterans Auditorium, and he received clarification from staff that the item had been included on the current agenda.

Discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding length of the discussion and the potential need for additional discussion at the next meeting.

THE COMMITTEE ON HOMELESSNESS PASSED A MOTION APPROVING THE MINUTES FOR OCTOBER 30, 2018 AS SUBMITTED (ABSENT MEMBER HELYAR) .

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Order of the Agenda

No changes were made.

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Action Items

Item A-1

Presentation - Tiny Homes to Assist the Homeless - Receive a Presentation from Elvis Summers of Starting Human on Tiny Homes as a Housing Option for the Homeless

Member Lipman introduced the item.

Elvis Summers, Starting Human, provided a presentation on building Tiny Homes for the homeless; discussed the tiny house he had brought to present to the Committee; simple and effective solutions; allowing people to relax; the need for adequate sleep; providing a safe place to sleep; the need for permanent and affordable housing; and he presented a video of a formerly homeless individual discussing Tiny Homes.

Leah England, Starting Human, provided background on the organization; discussed regulations that thwart solutions; temporary housing; and success stories.

Discussion ensued between meeting attendees, staff and Committee Members regarding basic shelter security; sleep deprivation; reducing the need for services; localizing the population; those who do not want homeless people in their area; education; different sizes of homes for individuals and families; creating small communities; the mobile nature of the Tiny Homes; communal bathroom and laundry facilities; bridging the gap between people; community gardens; art; El Pueblo; bridge home projects; a suggestion for the Committee to make a field trip to visit the site; lock boxes; liability; the psychological component; the need for rules; helping people feel like they are living on their own terms; the way things are presented; average cost; volunteers; portability; and fire rules.

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Recess/Reconvene

Chair Silbiger called a brief recess from 7:56 p.m. to 8:09 p.m. for the Committee to go outside and tour a sample Tiny Home.

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Item A-1
(Continued)

Presentation - Tiny Homes to Assist the Homeless - Receive a Presentation from Elvis Summers of Starting Human on Tiny Homes as a Housing Option for the Homeless

Discussion ensued between meeting attendees, staff and Committee Members regarding the feasibility study; site planning; mapping; next steps in the process; the need for a Request for Proposal (RFP); the feeling that issues will get worse and should be addressed; and the Homeless Initiative subcommittee.

Member Lipman read a motion that he had prepared:

1. The Culver City Committee on Homelessness supports, in principal, the development of a Tiny Home project to address the immediate need for supportive bridge/traditional housing for those folks who are vulnerable and currently homeless.

2. The Culver City Committee on Homelessness requests permission from the Culver City City Council to explore site options for a Tiny Home project and authorization to enter into discussions with the relevant officials to develop the groundwork for such a project.

Additional discussion ensued between meeting attendees, staff and Committee Members regarding initial work; clarification that the Committee cannot take action on presentation items; subcommittee consideration; timing within the scope of other work that is being done; consideration of the motion within item A-3; being prepared with additional information to present to the City Council; costs; experiences of other cities that have done similar projects; research that has already been conducted; concern with running into road blocks; outreach to elected officials in other jurisdictions; exploring other types of housing; tiny home communities; scope of work; costs to put up homeless people in a hotel; support for moving forward; and appreciation to Mr. Summers and Ms. England for the presentation.

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Item A-2

Subcommittee Vacancies: Receive Nominations for Vacancies for the 2019 Homeless County Subcommittees

Chair Silbiger discussed the vacancy on the Bylaws Update subcommittee and the commitment involved with serving.

No Committee Members expressed interest in serving and Chair Silbiger indicated that he and Member Helyar would handle the duties on their own.

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The following item was considered out of sequence.

Item A-4

Receive an Update from the Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count Subcommittee (Members Gibson, Wallace and Volbrecht)

Member Wallace reported that the Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count would be held on January 23 from 8 p.m. to midnight.

Discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding the schedule; the process; reasons for the timing of the Count; the deployment center; timing of the Count last year; the app; wifi; GIS; volunteer and donation solicitation; the outreach letter on the City website; the email blast; ensuring the proper number of volunteers are available; t-shirts; whether LAHSA can provide caps; maps; information gathering at the conclusion of the Count; delivery and pick up by LAHSA; security; involvement of St. Josephs and the Fire Department; www.theycountwillyou.org; partner organizations; donations of diapers and toiletries; and invitations to Council Members to participate.

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Item A-5

Update - Los Angeles County Homeless Initiative Subcommittee (Members Diamond, Helyar, Lipman)

Member Lipman indicated that the Subcommittee had not met but would be meeting soon; he reported that Booker Pearson from Upward Bound had mentioned that the motels were charging a lot for one night vouchers; he discussed short term rental housing; and he suggested creating an agreement with Airbnbs to reduce costs.

Discussion ensued between meeting attendees, staff and Committee Members regarding motel vouchers; City policies and procedures; inspections; code enforcement; payment methods; damages; pets and children; putting people in a home environment rather than a hotel; short term rentals during transition periods; Paradise Inn and Suites; cleaning fees; long-term stays; Rapid Rehousing; and Measure H monies.

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Item A-6

**Update - Outreach and Engagement Subcommittee (Members
Gibson, Lipman, Silberger)**

Chair Silbiger discussed bringing landlords together to discuss renting to homeless individuals and collect information to enable better decision making and incentivize the work; the proposed meeting date; work with the Landlord Tenant Mediation Board (LTMB); targeting a small group to represent a variety of viewpoints and gather information from them; feedback from previous participants in the program; focus questions; and incentives.

Discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding potential locations for the event; length of the event; concern with cross purposes between the Committee On Homelessness and the LTMB; information from the Apartment Association of Greater Los Angeles (AAGLA); concern with recasting the agenda; clarifying the goal; landlord participation; outreach to curious landlords; collecting information for the Landlord Fair; the importance of hearing the negatives; clarification that red tape is more of an issue than the money; Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requirements; the charge of the LTMB; the stigma of renting to homeless individuals; difficult tenants; case management; focusing on individual needs; timely payment to landlords; meeting criteria; identifying and addressing legitimate concerns; being thorough with the case manager; gathering and sharing information with landlords; making a connection and presenting the right plan; LTMB involvement; timing; the ability to call special meetings; moving forward with or without LTMB involvement; and Committee support of the event.

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The following item was considered out of sequence.

Item A-3

Discussion on Affordable Housing and Bridge Housing Options Including Financing

Tevis Barnes, Housing Administrator, reported that the county representative could not be present to make a report.

Discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding timing of bringing the county in to make a presentation; regular updates; the current bylaws; required staff; county participation; items related to the Homeless Count for the January meeting; deferring county items to the February meeting; adding wording regarding staff exploration of feasibility studies under modular and manufactured housing to the motion previously discussed under item A-1; ensuring that Members are not prohibited from exploring project sites; the need for a feasibility study; frustration with red tape; clarification that Committee Members can not represent the City without permission from the City Council; the need for site planning; allowing feasibility investigations to move forward; the need for City Council authorization in order to communicate with other elected officials about their real estate; information gathering; the RFP; expertise; mobile home reuse; owner willingness; gauging interest; supporting information gathering to supplement the RFP process; City Council interest; concern with going in circles; authorization to act as an agent of the City; starting the conversation; suggested revisions to add language indicating that discussions be entered into with relevant officials and agencies to gather information for potential projects; and agreement that the third part of the motion be added if it does not impair the process from moving forward in any way.

THE COMMITTEE ON HOMELESSNESS PASSED A MOTION UNANIMOUSLY (ABSENT MEMBER HELYAR) THAT:

1. THE CULVER CITY COMMITTEE ON HOMELESSNESS SUPPORTS, IN PRINCIPAL, THE DEVELOPMENT OF A TINY HOME PROJECT TO ADDRESS THE IMMEDIATE NEED FOR SUPPORTIVE BRIDGE/

TRADITIONAL HOUSING FOR THOSE FOLKS WHO ARE VULNERABLE AND CURRENTLY HOMELESS.; AND

2. THE CULVER CITY COMMITTEE ON HOMELESSNESS REQUESTS PERMISSION FROM THE CULVER CITY CITY COUNCIL TO EXPLORE SITE OPTIONS FOR A TINY HOME PROJECT AND AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO DISCUSSIONS WITH RELEVANT OFFICIALS AND AGENCIES TO GATHER INFORMATION FOR POTENTIAL PROJECTS.; AND

3. THE CULVER CITY COMMITTEE ON HOMELESSNESS REQUESTS PERMISSION FROM THE CULVER CITY CITY COUNCIL TO ALLOW STAFF TO INCLUDE TINY HOMES IN FEASIBILITY STUDIES UNDER MODULAR AND MANUFACTURED HOUSING.

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Item A-7

Review an Update on the Implementation of Goals and Actions Under the Plan to Prevent and Combat Homelessness

None.

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Public Comment for Items Not on the Agenda

Chair Silbiger invited public comment.

No cards were received and no speakers came forward.

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Receive and File Correspondence

None.

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Items from Committee on Homelessness Members

Chair Silbiger noted that Vice Chair Gibson would be attending the December 10 City Council meeting to present the Homeless Resource Card and he invited Member Lipman to provide a report to the City Council on Tiny Homes if he chooses to.

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Discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding the mobile nature of the homes; instituting a pilot project; the feasibility study; and use of consultants.

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December 4, 2018

Adjournment

There being no further business, at 9:01 p.m., the Culver City Committee on Homelessness adjourned to Tuesday, January 8, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

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TEVIS BARNES

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

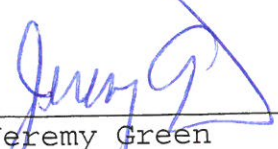
1/8/19

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

15 JAN 2019
Date