**MINUTES**

WALNUT CREEK HOMELESS TASK FORCE

Zoom Meeting: March 3, 2021 ▪ 2:00 - 3:30 PM

*ATTENDING: Leslie Gleason, Donna Colombo, Lisa Andrews, Lisa Thomas, Karen Marriner, Harry Miller, Judy Stillman, Mary Fujii, Ryndie Azevedo, Janet Kennedy, Margot Ernst, Jenny Quijada, Bob Stearns, Linda Taki, .Jaime Jenett, Nancy Williams, Jan Warren, Loella Haskins, Margaret Campos, Kerry Inserra. Raishma Anwar, Mardy Beggs Cassin, Joleen Lafayette, Cindy Silva, Susan Helms, Patricia Sharaf, Sherluna Vien, Linda Rimac Colberg, Rose Holmes, Nancy Templeton, Rich Payne, Colleen Awad, Marco Newsom, Leslie Valencia. There were a few additional attendees but only their phone numbers were shown in the Zoom gallery rather than names. My apologies if I missed anyone else.*

**INTRODUCTIONS:** As a result of the ZOOM meeting no general introductions were made. New attendees were asked to introduce themselves. Lisa began the meeting with reading the Mission Statement and the Vision Statement and welcomed the new attendees; Marco Newsom, President of Dorothy Day House; Rich Payne, City of WC Public Works, Rose Holmes, concerned resident; and Judy Stillman, Winter Nights.

**GUEST SPEAKER:** Karen Marriner

Karen and her daughter started picking up trash on various freeway ramps, that normally would be conducted by CalTrans. CalTrans wasn’t doing any clean-up since the pandemic began. Karen introduced the Cash for Trash Program, (she is not part of Cash for Trash) which is currently underway in San Jose, whereby they have volunteers picking up trash, and they get paid $4 per bag of trash, up to 5 bags per day. They also interface with other agencies. Karen wanted to introduce the program here as WC residents are getting upset seeing the amount of trash in their community. They put a note on the platform, NextDoor, to inform the community. They started in July and typically work for 90 minutes with 10-15 people, then they contact CalTrans to come and pick up the bags. The survey they took revealed 56% of the volunteers got instant gratification. The group would pick up 10-12 bags of trash, and a week later disappointing garbage reappeared.

The San Jose Cash for Trash now encompasses 200 homeless encampment sites and 400 volunteers. It collaborates with Beautify San Jose, which is a program that has been in place since 2016 with 20k volunteers. Cash for Trash is now one of the programs of Beautify SJ. Various churches and the SJ Water District are also involved. The proof of concept involved the City putting up $50k. The group brings bags to homeless camps and CalTrans comes and picks them up. They use reloadable MasterCards for payment, as the staff goes to the site and loads the MasterCards with an iPad. Karen’s email: [karen@calhealthagent.com](mailto:karen@calhealthagent.com) There’s a link to Amazon within NextDoor providing information on the items needed for the trash collection program. [next-door.com/g/u/s3s2hyh](http://next-door.com/g/u/s3s2hyh)/ Items provided for the volunteers consist of a safety vest, gloves and bags.

Karen’s group is Community Clean-Up Crew and typically consists of 12-20 volunteers. Additionally, there is a core group of seven people that can’t come out but are passionate about the concept and support it. Karen’s clean up crew will be volunteering for trash pickup on March 21.

Kerry indicated she could broadcast information on the program and include in the March launch of a downtown marketing program. Kerry will also include the concept in the weekly news e-blast that goes out to 4500 people. WC Education could also be contacted to clean up safe places, i.e. Ironhorse Trail. Rich indicated the City of WC Public Works would be willing to help, along with Trinity Center helping as well.

The trash committee has two people, Jan and Sean. The next step to add the Cash for Trash to the trash committee would be for WCHTF to decide to add, form a committee to establish the goals and do the research. Leslie volunteered TC and added herself to the committee. It would be a good program for TC and also to think beyond TC and to the homeless community. Margot indicated the City could work with the group also.

**Task Force Leadership Invitation:**

Lisa presented the invitation for co-facilitator, secretary and committee chairs. Lisa and Jenny currently take turns as co-facilitator; checking emails, creating the meeting agenda, and facilitating the monthly meeting,.. The amount of time for these functions is approximately two to three hours p/mo. The amount of time for the secretary position is approximately one half to an hour p/mo to document the meeting minutes and send to the facilitator. Also looking for volunteers for Committee Chairs for the Advisory Committee for presentation one or two times per year.

* **Mark Newsom** has volunteered to be a co-facilitator and will begin at the May meeting.

**GENERAL UPDATES AND DISCUSSION:**

**Advisory Committee Presentation to City Council:**

The date is planned for April 6th, 6pm via Zoom. Need volunteers to update on various issues, accomplishments, and priorities. Mary Fujii volunteered along with Raishma and they will co-present. Leslie and Jenny will submit data for the presentation. Margot and Donna will support them with whatever they need, along with Marco volunteering to assist also. Lisa will send email arranging a time to coordinate and discuss presentation.

**Housing Committee Report:**

Donna indicated that there are two upcoming presentations on housing. Debra Sanderson, from Casita Coalition, will be presenting on accessory dwelling units and tiny home resources that are available, and present examples on what other cities are doing.

Cindy Wu, Executive Director, Local Initiative Support Corporations (LISC) will present their faith-based program and what it would take to expand the Alameda County program to Contra Costa County. LISC provides technical support, training, and funding to faith-based organizations that desire to build affordable housing on their property.

**Task Force Website:**

Raishma indicated there are not any updates. The website contains the updates from the meeting agenda monthly.

**Trinity Center:**

Leslie indicated that the day program is going strong, and the evening program is still operating. The evening program serves twelve people nightly. Reminder for the TC Gala on June 11 and looking for donations and sponsors. Continuing to collaborate with Loaves and Fishes and announced soft opening for public dining (for those in need) on a limited basis on March 9. The virtual grand opening will be a couple weeks later. Announcements will go thru WC Downtown, NextDoor, and Chambers. TC continues with hot lunches and take out from 12:15 to 1:15.

**CORE:**

Lisa indicated the data numbers are low as a result of input delays and the data is still being input from last month. Lisa will send the complete data later for HMIS. Preliminary data is from 2/1/21 - 2/28/21 with 7 contacts, 5 individuals, 1 family, 19 services, 90% emergency supplies and 45 soft referrals.

**WCPD:**

There are discussions taking place that the HOP team will be starting earlier than expected and possibly as early as April. CORE team continues in WC Monday & Friday, 8 hours and a half day on Wednesday.

**COUNTY UPDATES:**

Jaime said there will be vaccinations for the homeless community. Project Room Key staffing is being trained on how to disseminate the information into the community. Project Room Key will be ending the end of June. When it closes the individuals will be able to go back to congregate shelters. Council on Homelessness meeting will take place March 4.

Next meeting will take place on April 7. There will be a pre-meeting at 1:30 for the TC Evening Program. Additionally, the upcoming guest speakers dates changed. Debra Sanderson will speak on April 7 and Cindy Wu will speak on May 5.

Meeting adjourned at 3:16pm