

MEETING MINUTES  
WALNUT CREEK HOMELESS COMMUNITY TASK FORCE  
Zoom Meeting - June 3, 2020 - 2:00 - 3:30 PM

*ATTENDING: Leslie Gleason, Mayor Loella Haskew, Linda Rimac Colberg, Donna Colombo, Margot Ernst, Lt. Sean Conley, Mary Fujii, Raishma Anwar, Jenny Quijada, Steve Reiser, Cindy Silva, Bob Stearns, Linda Taki, Nancy Templeton, Leslie Dawson, Jaime Jenett, Nancy Williams, Lisa Andrews, Sherluna Vien, Janette Kennedy, Kat Reisinger, Kerry Insura, Joleen Lafayette, Jan Warren. Elaine, Lawanda, Leslie Valencia. There were a few additional attendees but only their phone numbers were shown in the Zoom gallery. My apologies if I missed anyone else.*

**INTRODUCTIONS:** As a result of the ZOOM meeting no introductions were made.

**PROJECT UPDATES:**

**MISSION & VISION STATEMENTS:**

Donna indicated that the Mission statement is approved, along with mentioning that both the Vision and the Mission statements should be periodically reviewed to have a re-focus on them. They will be posted on the web site. It also was suggested to replace coalition with consortium. It read as follows: The WC Community Homeless Task Force is a consortium of government agencies, businesses, service providers, and concerned citizens whose purpose is to find immediate short term and long term solutions to the issues around homelessness in Walnut Creek and our surrounding community.

Jaime contributed additionally to use the landing page from H3 and use the link:

<https://cchealth.org/h3/coc/help.php>

The Mobile Health Van is funded by John Muir to various Contra Costa Counties and it's free for the homeless.

**TASK FORCE WEBSITE UPDATE:**

Raishma will include the information on the hand washing stations along with the porta-potties. Information on the Los Angeles innovation of having art work for expressions of the homeless was provided. This led to plan on including a section on art and positive homeless experiences on the website.

Stories must be emailed to [wchomelessctf@gmail.com](mailto:wchomelessctf@gmail.com) and Raishma, as obtaining permission on the experiences is required from the source. Raishma's email is: [spryr123@gmail.com](mailto:spryr123@gmail.com)

Another possible inclusion on the website could be the public log of nuisance instances. Lt. Conley suggested that he would send samples and include success stories as well when Officers report them. We need to hear the good information as well as the bad.

Last of all, include statistics on the website, perhaps a couple quarterly reports for both County and Walnut Creek with generic numbers.

**HOUSING COMMITTEE:**

Donna indicated that the committee met and included Donna, Bob, Kerry, Mary and Nancy. Regular meetings were scheduled to take place the third Tuesday of every month from 3-4 pm. First task is to establish housing and second one being shelter. Important to include the HUD definition and identify affordable housing in WC. Types of various housing were discussed and what would work, i.e. convert existing buildings, shipping containers, hotels, large homes, obtain land for building, tiny homes and pre-fab homes. It was suggested that Margot to do a one-on-one to see what WC can do. A Developer would also be helpful to include in the overall process as well as reaching out to Home

Aid as San Jose is doing a project for tiny homes. Kerry identifies two Developers that would be helpful. Donna suggested to have a company come in speak on various types of ADUs. It was at this point that Los Angeles had a presentation on integrated alternative housing within their art district. It's important to present to the public and make them more aware of ADU as many do not know what it is.

## **GENERAL UPDATES:**

**TRINITY CENTER:** Leslie reported that the move to St. Paul's Commons took place May 15 successfully and up for business May 18. Members are very happy and the community is warm and welcoming. Hand wash stations have been placed and have benefited greatly from them. Safe Parking Program is going well and presently working on transition plans and continuing to take applications. The Loaves and Fishes inspection will be taking place June 4 and then looking forward to start-up dining.

**CORE Report:** Michael Callanan not present

**WCPD Report:** Lt. Conley indicated that they are still managing all of the COVID situations as businesses are still closed. The hand washing stations and porta-potties are still present as County funds are available. May 31st there was significant damage in the city and buildings were boarded up due to rioting. The Dept. continues to obtain information on future protests and will inform the community. A different deployment will be initiated on June 14 allowing for a better sense of calls for service.

**OTHER:(County & Agency Updates):**

Jaime indicated that 350 people are in hotels and continuing to place the elderly and high risk individuals from the county. Many people are in the hotels from Trinity Center. Trinity Center is also continuing to see new people coming in.

The County is tracking COVID data with dashboard specifically on homeless tests and cases, deaths, people in hotels and various trends. CORE is still present but in a different capacity. They can't transport people but are still providing connection to various services.

An entire re-thinking needs to take place on shelters, as they are simply a band-aid. The thought being that hotels that have provided vouchers could be converted to actual housing for the homeless. There currently is a state wide initiative that includes options to purchase, but need to establish where the money is coming from.

A Zoom meeting will take place on June 4 on Council on Homelessness, anticipating great attendance.

**FALL FORUM:**

Open discussion took place on what the Fall Form would look like, having a virtual meeting such as a Zoom forum would allow for greater attendance. Would it take place in fall of 2020 or spring of 2021? Topics would be similar to providing the information like the last Forum as well as including all updates on COVID. Perhaps the best plan would be to plan for an October Forum and then if necessary to re-schedule that would be possible and then the momentum isn't lost on the Forum. Also necessary to change the time slots as afternoons are difficult to meet for many.

It would be positive to have HOP Officers at the Forum so that they can be asked questions directly and respond, stressing the importance of the need for them.

Lt. Conley announced he is retiring in August. He will be missed!

November 15 is Hunger/Homeless Awareness Week and communities will be doing events through the week. It would be a good idea to have the Forum take place virtually during that week.

Last of all Leslie Valencia was introduced. Leslie's email is: [valencialeslie.lv@gmail.com](mailto:valencialeslie.lv@gmail.com)

NEXT MEETING: July 1, 2020

MEETING ADJOURNED at 3:10pm