

**Mayor's Commission on Homelessness Meeting  
Phoenix Building, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Conference Room  
Wednesday, August 15, 2012  
3:00 to 5:00 P.M.**

**Minutes**

Commission Members Present:

Steve Kay (Chair), Debra Hensley (Co-Chair), Mark Davis, Ike Adams, Melody Flowers, Lisa Adkins, Darlene Thomas, Claudia Blaylock, Laverne Laine, Michelle Beverly, Linda Carroll, Janice James, Bill Embry, Alberto Carrillo, Rocky Burke, Ginny Vicini, Jessica Gies, Doug Pape, Joe Modica (proxy for Kathy Witt), Sherry Maddock, Tanya Torp, Kevin Fleming, Mike Scanlon, Kate Savage, Randy Moler, Joe Shuman, Catherine DeFlorio

LFUCG Staff member(s) present:

Shaye Rabold, Mayor's Office

Guests:

Billie Mallory, Peggy Harris, Judy McLaughlin, Marjorie Holzfiend

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The meeting was called to order at 3:10 P.M. by Steve Kay, Chair of the Commission.

Steve Kay asked for the Commission members to introduce themselves.

Shaye Rabold welcomed the group on behalf of Mayor Jim Gray.

Debra Hensley, Co-Chair of the Commission and Chair of the 1990 Mayor's Task Force on Homelessness, explained some of the historical context, plans and efforts relating to homelessness undertaken by Lexington over the past several decades.

The 1990 Task Force made numerous recommendations. One that was implemented was the creation of a 24/7 facility—the Hope Center. The Hope Center stands for “Helping Our People Everyday”. The idea of the Hope Center was to have all services under one roof. Debra noted that all of the plans over the years including the current commission are efforts to find ways to support the citizens and service providers in the trenches everyday working to help those who are experiencing homelessness.

Steve Kay went over the proposed process and structure for commission meetings and the work the commission will do. He explained that Mayor Gray had included in his executive order that established the Commission a steering committee for the purpose of keeping the commission on track specifically relating to process.

Steve explained that when considering whether or not to include a recommendation in the final report, the Commission should ask the following questions:

Steve explained that it is not expected for every recommendation to be able to affirmatively answer each of the questions, but rather one or more questions should be satisfactorily answered.

The schedule of meetings was presented and discussed.

Mike Scanlon asked, “When we walk out of here at the end of our work, how do we know we’ve done a good job?”

Steve responded that if the recommendations meet some or all of the questions posed [above], then the Commission will know it has been successful in its efforts.

Steve explained that because of the complex issues to be addressed, it may not be possible to reach unanimous agreement. The Commission will operate under the 80 percent agreement, 100 percent support structure. This means, for any recommendation, there should be 80 percent of members that are in agreement, but even the ones who are not in agreement can support the recommendation as a part of the whole report.

Steve explained that it is the desire of the Mayor and the Steering Committee to make sure the work of the Commission is as open as possible and information is easily accessible by the public. Another goal is to receive as much feedback from the public as possible as early in the process as possible. In order to accomplish this goal, the Steering Committee made the decision to host an “open space” meeting on Saturday, August 25. This decision was made by the Steering Committee and not the full Commission because of timing issues.

Steve explained that the intent is to offer people an opportunity to be heard and express their ideas and concerns. The reason for the urgency to have the meeting is so people do not think the Commission has already made decisions and therefore their input is not as valued or useful.

Steve said the open space meeting will center on the question, “What should our community think about, know about, and do in order to best address the opportunities and challenges presented by homelessness?”

It is possible that one additional open space meeting will be held before the Commission’s work is completed and once a draft report is available.

Steve explained how open space meetings work. He encouraged members to invite people to attend the open space meeting, even if they are unable to come themselves.

Steve said that there is not an expectation for Commission members to attend everything, as everyone is busy. It is the hope that people can attend as many meetings as possible, if not all.

Shaye pointed out the handout in the Commission members' packets that included a list of electronic resources about homelessness. The Commission was asked to contact Shaye if they have other websites they think are helpful. Three suggestions were made: the National Alliance on Mental Illness, sites relating to veterans and the National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth. The suggestion was also made to include on the Commission's website a link to the 1990 Mayor's Task Force on Homelessness Report and the Affordable Housing Trust Fund report.

Catherine DeFlorio asked if there would be a forum similar to the open space for people with mobility issues. It was suggested that the open space meeting be videotaped, but there was concern expressed that some would be scared or unwilling to open up if they are videotaped. There was also discussion about broadcasting the meeting live on GTV3, having a podcast of the meeting or hosting a call-in radio show.

The group was encouraged to think of any specific constituencies that need representation at the meeting who might not otherwise attend. Randy Moler suggested that if members know of a group of people who can't go, members or others should act as advocates for those people. It was suggested that people could be picked up if they did not have transportation.

Kate Savage asked "Who will write the report" referring to the final report of the Commission. Steve responded that Shaye will write the report with the information provided to her by the Commission. The Commission will have to sign off on the report before it becomes official.

Steve said that at the next Commission meeting, a work plan would be developed, partly based on the feedback received from the public at the Open Space meeting.

Steve asked the group to go around once more and tell a little more about themselves and what people want to get out of the Commission.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 5:00 P.M.