

DRAFT

Mayor's Commission on Homelessness Meeting
Commerce Lexington Conference Room
Wednesday, October 17, 2012
3:00-5:00 p.m.

Commission Members present:

Steve Kay (Chair), Debra Hensley (Co-chair), Melody Flowers, Mark Davis, Laura Babbage, Michelle Beverly, Linda Carroll, Catherine DeFlorio, Janis Durham, Bill Embry, Jessica Gies, Janice James, Laverne Laine, Sherry Maddock, Doug Pape, Don Ralph, Kate Savage, Joe Shuman, Tanya Torp, Ginny Vicini, (Kathy Witt proxy), Kyle Whalen

LFUCG Staff Members present:

Shaye Rabold, Office of the Mayor
Leah Boggs, Legislative Aide to Steve Kay

Guests:

Billie Mallory, Ike Lawrence, Sandra Zupan

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 by Steve Kay, Commission Chair.

I. Discussion of proposed agenda

Steve Kay asked if any member of the Commission had comments or suggested changes to the proposed agenda for the meeting but no one opposed the proposed agenda presented to the group prior to the meeting.

II. Approval of minutes

The minutes from the September 26 meeting were approved by acclamation.

III. Public Comment

Mr. Kay invited members of the public to speak.

Sandra Zupan said she felt like it is not clear to the members of the Commission what is expected of them. She said she felt like the Commission was being reactive to the problem and she has not heard anything that sounds proactive discussed by the group. She says the goal should be about focused on economic development and improving the opportunities for the community. She said she felt like the goal that the Commission is focused on is too reactive. She said she hoped that the individual work groups could address her concerns because she believes there is a lack of direction and there needs to be more explanation of what needs to be done.

Ike Lawrence introduced himself as a homeless advocate and a landlord. He passed out copies of suggested questions for the survey being drafted for homeless individuals.

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Billie Mallory reminded the group about the Stand Down event at Central Christian Church.

IV. Proposed Calendar Changes

Mr. Kay asked the group if there were any objections to cancelling the December 19 meeting of the commission and rescheduling it for the previous week on December 12. It was explained that this proposed change was to allow the Commission to review the draft recommendations before the draft was shared at a public forum scheduled for the week of December 10. There were no objections to the proposed change.

V. Work Groups

Shaye Rabold explained the charges for each work group. She said that the focus should be on identifying or reconfirming previously identified gaps and making recommendations to address those gaps.

A question was raised about whether or not supportive services should be included in the Day Services Work Group or as part of the Shelter/Housing Work Group. The argument was made that because supportive services are an integral part of some housing and shelter programs, it is difficult or inappropriate to separate the two. It was suggested that both groups could include supportive services where appropriate and that many of the same issues and themes will be a part of some or all of the workgroups. Shaye and Leah will be staffing the work groups so they will try to make sure no group is duplicating work of another group unnecessarily.

There was discussion about how the process would work going forward and that the workgroups would provide updates of their work at the November 7 meeting. Commission members were encouraged to seek out the expertise of other members on the Commission even if they are on different work groups.

Before the Commission broke into work groups to select chairs, meeting dates and identify next steps, Shaye passed out the responses from the provider survey and explained that the responses had not been edited in any way and that the names of the respondents had been omitted so that it could be reviewed with potential preconceived notions. She said if people wanted to follow up with any of the respondents that she would provide the name and contact information.

The group split into the workgroups and were able to leave when they had completed the initial tasks.