

CITY OF BELLEVUE
HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION
MINUTES

August 18, 2009
6:30 p.m.

Bellevue City Hall
City Council Conference Room 1E-113

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Chairperson Stout, Commissioners Hoople,
Huenefeld-Gese, Plaskon

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Commissioners Beighle, Yantis

STAFF PRESENT: Emily Leslie, Alex O'Reilly, Joseph Adriano, Patrick
Tippy, Department of Parks & Community Services

GUEST SPEAKERS: Ellen Hagenauer, Catholic Community Services;
David Johns-Bowling, Eastside Interfaith Social
Concerns Council

RECORDING SECRETARY: Gerry Lindsay

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting began without a quorum at 6:34 p.m. Chair Stout presided. A quorum was reached with the arrival of Commissioner Huenefeld-Gese at 6:40 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Upon the call of the roll, all Commissioners were present with the exception of Commissioner Huenefeld-Gese, who arrived at 6:40 p.m., and Commissioners Beighle and Yantis who were excused.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. July 7, 2009

Absent a quorum, it was agreed to postpone approval of the minutes to later in the meeting.

4. PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS – None

5. STAFF AND COMMISSION REPORTS

Commissioner Hoople said he and Commissioner Plaskon participated in the tour of the Family YWCA facilities and found it to be very interesting.

Commissioner Plaskon said he was impressed with how well organized the centers are and how seamlessly they are tucked into the communities.

Chair Stout said she has visited the centers many times in the past and never ceases to be amazed at the level of caring that is evident.

Commissioner Hoople said he participated over the weekend of August 14 to 16 with the traveling Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall.

Chair Stout said she participated in the Call for Caring at Crossroads in July and as chair of the Human Services Commission was afforded the opportunity to help judge the applications from the community link projects.

Chair Stout said she also attended the senior housing conference at Crossroads Community Center. She reported that on August 19 she would be participating as part of a small group from the city and business community that will be meeting with Senator Murray to talk about Bellevue issues. She said housing will be a major part of the discussion, with a special light on the Bel-Red corridor. The visit with Senator Murray will include a tour of the Bel-Red area.

Human Services Manager Emily Leslie reported that Mayor Degginger has appointed Councilmember Creighton to serve as liaison from the Council to the Human Services Commission. She said she and Chair Stout met with Councilmember Creighton recently to bring him up to speed.

Ms. Leslie said on August 19 Grant Coordinator Joseph Adriano would be attending a meeting of the planning group for the regional coordinated food drive that will be kicked off on September 26 and run through October 24. At the Council meeting on September 21 there will be a proclamation made for the effort. Eleven different collection sites around the city have been identified. The agencies that will receive the proceeds of the food drive are Hopelink, Emergency Feeding Program, World Impact Network Renewal Food Bank in Bellevue, and the Issaquah, Mercer Island and Sammamish food banks.

Human Services Planner Alex O'Reilly reported that the first draft of the Needs Update is being finalized. It will be to the print shop by August 20 and will be delivered prior to the September 1 Commission meeting.

Mr. Adriano reported that HERO House has separately incorporated and is no longer a program of NAMI Eastside. That has triggered a need for the program to have its own contact with the city.

Mr. Adriano said he has participated in a couple of meetings with human services counterparts from south King County about E-City Gov and HS Connect, the electronic application process. He said it appears that at least four of the ten south

county cities are interested in joining what has hitherto been a north and east King County cities collaborative. Renton, Kent, Federal Way and Auburn will be working to convince the other cities to participate.

Ms. Leslie commented that the vacant Commission seat has been posted on the website and news releases will be going out. Applications will be received through September 30.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. July 7, 2009

Motion to approve the minutes as submitted was made by Commissioner Hoople. Second was by Commissioner Plaskon and the motion carried unanimously.

6. DISCUSSION

A. Recommendation for Severe Weather Shelter Operation for 2009-2010

Mr. Adriano noted that a single application was received to the request for qualifications to operate the severe weather shelter for the coming cold season. He noted that the application was from the same partnership between Catholic Community Services and Eastside Interfaith Social Concerns Council that operated the program during its pilot phase.

Commissioner Hoople referred to the two-part implementation plan and asked if the outreach component included contacting the Angeline's Center to make sure they are aware of the severe weather shelter program. Ms. Ellen Hagenauer from Catholic Community Services answered that there will be communication with all agencies that have housing programs to make sure they know about the severe weather shelter.

Commissioner Plaskon asked who is to be responsible for providing mats and bedding. Ms. Hagenauer said the blankets are owned by the city. Mr. Adriano explained that the city has a supply of blankets that was used for the pilot program during the winter of 2009-2009. The blankets can be washed and reused. He added that the mats are also owned by the city. Ms. Hagenauer said those who stay in the shelter generally leave the blankets there, but they are welcome to take them with them if they want them.

David Johns-Bowling from Eastside Interfaith Social Concerns Council said the partnership has access to a donation of almost 50 men's and women's coats and gloves. As people come to the shelter they will be given the resources they need to survive the cold weather. Coats and blankets can easily be replaced through donations as they are given away.

Chair Stout said she remains concerned about the 7:00 a.m. shelter closure time. She noted that by that time of day the temperature often has not increased above the freezing mark. She asked what leeway the shelter can provide clients, especially on the particularly inclement mornings. Ms. Leslie explained that because the shelter is housed in an operating community center accommodations must be made to allow for the regular center programming, which starts fairly early. Time is needed to allow for janitorial work before the programming kicks off. Because the shelter is located adjacent to a public mall, there are places people can go to keep out of the cold. She agreed to raise the issue with the parks and facilities staff.

Chair Stout referred to the cost proposal and noted that the list of itemized figures includes reference to both \$150 and \$100 for travel. Ms. Hagenauer said both references should be to \$150.

Ms. Leslie said she received a concern from Commissioner Beighle about the proposal being geared almost exclusively to homeless persons. Commissioner Beighle noted that severe weather shelters are generally open to the general population even though most who use such shelters are in fact homeless. The shelter should be advertised to more than just the homeless community.

Chair Stout said during her recent visit to Angeline's Center the question was asked how they deal with snowy and wintery conditions. She said their response was that during the winter of 2008-2009 the center remained open except for one day when the center staff could not get to work.

Mr. Adriano observed that the budget numbers in the application were somewhat off compared to the pilot program. He noted that during the pilot phase the city paid \$24.50 per hour for the consultant/purchased service for the two agencies to operate the severe weather shelter. Breaking out the costs as they appear in the application is actually lower than that, between \$21.00 and \$22.00 per hour. However, by adjusting some of the line items, the overall cost comes back up to the \$24.50 per hour. The ask in the application was \$20,000, but with the figures adjusted the total should be a maximum of \$24,995.

Ms. Leslie informed the Commissioners that the funding, if approved, would be taken from the Human Services Fund. She said during the next budget process the cost will be built into the budget instead. There may be funding from other Eastside cities, e.g. City of Redmond, as well to help defray the overall costs.

Chair Stout asked if food is offered at the shelter. Ms. Hagenauer said only hot coffee or tea is served, though crackers or cookies may also be served.

Mr. Johns-Bowling said a decent amount of food comes through Congregations for the Homeless and during the previous winter some of the surplus was brought to the shelter. He asked if that can be permitted given that not everyone involved will have

a food handler's permit. Ms. Leslie said technically the emergency shelter is not allowed to accept donated food unless it is prepackaged.

Commissioner Hoople said he had questions about when the shelter would open in addition to questions about when the shelter closes. He also suggested that information about the shelter should be in the hands of Service First and the information services. Mr. Adriano said staff has taken to heart the urging of the Commission to be more liberal in applying the criteria in the coming cold season relative to opening and closing times, though he stressed the need to balance the needs against the available budget. He said the Crossroads Community Center phone number is advertised as the place to get information about the shelter; information is included on the recording after hours. Police and Fire as well as 2-1-1 are always notified when the shelter is open.

Motion to approve funding the severe weather shelter up to \$24,995 was made by Commissioner Plaskon. Second was by Commissioner Hoople and the motion carried unanimously.

7. DISCUSSION

A. Contingency Plan for 2010 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Funding

Motion to approve the contingency plan for 2010 Community Development Block Grant funding as published was made by Commissioner Hoople. Second was by Commissioner Huenefeld-Gese and the motion carried unanimously.

8. OLD BUSINESS – None

9. NEW BUSINESS – None

10. PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS – None

11. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Stout adjourned the meeting at 7:33 p.m.

Secretary to the Human Services Commission

Date

Chairperson of the Human Services Commission

Date