

BALLARD COMMUNITY TASKFORCE ON HOMELESSNESS AND HUNGER

Minutes of meeting of March 26, 2015

1. Solutions to Seattle's Housing Emergency—Community Caucus Recommendations, a document developed in counterpoint to the City's recommendations

Mercedes Alizalde, Volunteer Coordinator for the Low Income Housing Institute, told BCTHH members that growth targets for housing units of various types had been announced by the City. The Community Caucus, made up of a number of homelessness and housing advocates, Councilmembers, and non-profit representations, received good media attention for its counter-recommendations, which include: \$500M in municipal bonds to pay for low-income housing, development linkage fees, one-for-one replacement of low-income housing lost, and cessation of up-zoning of properties until affordability is addressed. Rent stabilization, which is currently illegal according to state law, would help if high-level political changes were made.

It was moved, seconded, and passed that BCTHH should join the list of supporters of the recommendations. The Caucus document will be distributed. Because the CEH is a County organization, it has not endorsed the recommendations; Mayor Murray is co-chair of the Government Board and the Caucus document is not a City effort.

2. Seattle Human Services Department funding under 2015 budget

Josh Fogt, assistant to Councilmember Mike O'Brien, presented spreadsheets of the Human Services Department investments for the biennium, and walked members through them. He said that HSD was doing a review of the effectiveness/success of programs currently being funded. Reshuffling will impact programs and it's also anticipated that big changes, including the necessary provision of data, will have effects on current programs. Josh was requested to provide the HSD final report when it's completed.

Josh was asked a series of questions:

Q: How will success of programs be measured? A: Unknown

Q: Will the state audit of HSD be addressed in this report? A: Unknown

Q: How will people be tracked through the system? A: Unknown

Q: To what extent is Housing First (1811 Eastlake model) being discussed in the City? A: Unknown, but it's considered a "best practice".

The Utah model for ending homelessness and the purpose of rapid rehousing were discussed.

Josh said the \$70K in encampment outreach is tied to the increase in case management needed for the additional 3 tent cities. The money will go to extend the contract with HSD. BCTHH members commented that so far, HSD outreach to those on the street/in vehicles is underwhelming. There was discussion of the one-time \$175K which will be used to convince other municipalities to do more regarding shelter and homelessness.

3. Advocacy/Collaboration with other groups

It was recommended that BCTHH talk with the University Conversation on Homelessness and other community/neighborhood groups in order to develop a unified voice.

What are the upstream actions we need to be taking? Suggested issues: affordable/low-income housing, linkage fee for developers, mitigation of impacts of developments, 5% set-aside, target percentage of AMI (members felt that 80% AMI development was not low enough to help low-income/homeless people), preservation of moderate-income housing, tenant relocation act, working on legal rent control. Members felt we need to start talking about displacement; the Seattle Displacement Coalition is the only organization which keeps data on loss of housing, and the Seattle Office of Housing should be engaged in that data-gathering.

4. Encampment ordinance

3 new encampments have been proposed by Mayor Murray and the proposal is before the Council. These encampments are in addition to the current church-hosted encampments. The new encampments will be allowed on City property or non-religious privately-owned property, and may be on site for one year, with the possibility of a one-year renewal. The Council does not want them to be placed in residential areas, although the church-sited encampments have been in residential areas for more than 10 years.

Discussion followed about the following issues: CM Kshama Sawant's proposed amendment for an environmental review for siting in residential areas, to prevent "redlining", the management of the proposed encampments, HSD management permits and DPD occupancy permits. Q: why aren't encampments allowed in residential areas? A: the environmental review will add 12+ months to the process, and there are technical and political issues about residential areas.

5. Food Bank report

Jenn of the Ballard Food Bank said the current three-year strategic plan is winding up and they are heading into the next three-year plan. There have been shifting demographics and increased demand. They are looking for a holistic plan, bringing in information re resources, and are open to ideas of what needs in the community they might be able to address with increased diversity of services.

Minutetaker: Sally Kinney

NEXT MEETING: 10:30 AM, Thursday, April 23, Nyer-Urness House.