

HOMELESS ISSUES COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE JULY 23, 2013 MEETING

MEMBERS PRESENT: Sup. Heidi Wegleitner, Deedra Atkinson, Sup. Leland Pan, Ulysses Williams, Steve Schooler, Sup. Nick Zweifel, Sofia Martinez, Capt. Carl Gloede for Chief Noble Wray, Ronnie Barbett

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Michael Basford, Ald. Larry Palm, Ald. Marsha Rummel

OTHERS PRESENT: Cheryl Elkinton, Lynn Green, Todd Violante, and Tim Saterfield

The Homeless Issues Committee meeting was called to order by Vice-Chair Wegleitner at 6:35 PM. There was no public testimony.

Housing Plan

Todd Violante updated the committee on recent discussions by the Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee. That committee is suggesting a slight shift in focus, recommending that the various county committees (such as Homeless Issues and Human Services Board) looking at elements of the comprehensive plan keep a “big picture” focus, and look at validating the current plan and reviewing for major “errors” or shortcomings, and not focus on major re-writes of the elements. The steering committee’s next meeting is July 30th.

Supervisor Wegleitner distributed a list of recommended changes to the text of the comp. plan for the committee to consider and use as a basis for updates to the housing element.

Schooler/Pan moved to approve a modification to item #6 under Homelessness and Housing Crisis Services as follows: “Provide needed services *and amenities* to the homeless, including case management ~~and~~ credit counseling, and showers, restrooms, lockers and personal storage space accessible 24 hours per day, 7 days per week.”

Motion carried 7-0.

Although there was no motion, the committee consensus was that the comprehensive plan steering committee may wish to modify item #3 under Homelessness and Housing Crisis Services since the county does not currently have an Affordable Housing Trust Fund.

Motion by Williams/Pan to add the following language as item #7 under Homelessness and Housing Crisis Services: “Expand eviction prevention activities, including case management, financial assistance available throughout the county at JFF sites, housing counseling and legal services”. **Motion Carried 8-0.**

Motion by Zweifel/Pan to add the following as items # 8, 9, and 10 under Homelessness and Housing Crisis Services: “8) *Ensure no one seeking shelter will be denied access to shelter;* 9) *Provide additional daytime shelter space in the downtown area [by obtaining] site for daytime homeless resource center operations and [providing] sufficient annual funding for daytime homeless resource center operations;* 10) *Recommend policies to prevent the criminalization of homelessness”.* **Motion carried 8-0 (Atkinson abstained)**

The committee consensus was that items # 3 and 4 under Housing Assistance should be considered a lower priority.

Motion by Zweifel/Pan to add the following as item #5 under Incentive Programs: “Provide incentives for landlords to provide housing to homeless and low-income households”. **Motion carried 9-0.**

Motion by Schooler/Zweifel to add the following as items # 5, 6 and 7 under Housing Assistance: “5) Provide an approach for reducing the number of homeless children in schools in Dane County by 50% by September 1, 2015; 6) Recommend policies to prevent foreclosures, evictions, utility shut-offs and to help stabilize people in their housing; 7) Expand successful housing first programs and case management, financial assistance available throughout the county at JFF sites, housing counseling and legal services”. **Motion carried 9-0.**

Motion by Atkinson Williams to add the following as item # 11 under Housing Assistance: “Assist households in applying for and maintaining benefits and documentation necessary for those benefits.” **Motion carried 9-0.**

Motion by Schooler/Atkinson to substitute the following as item #5 under Intergovernmental Coordination: “Pursue inter-jurisdictional agreements and collaboration between the City of Madison Community Development Authority and the Dane County Housing Authority to: (1) permit section 8 voucher program participants to move across jurisdictional lines without being re-screened for admission to the program; and (2) facilitate collaborative affordable housing development throughout Dane County, both inside and outside of the City of Madison”. **Motion carried 7-0.**

Motion by Schooler/Pan to add the following as Item #6 under Intergovernmental Coordination: “Create a regional affordable housing trust fund as recommended by the Affordable Housing Trust Fund Subcommittee of the Health and Human Needs Committee to provide dedicated funding to increase affordable housing stock throughout the county.” **Motion carried 7-0.**

Motion by Schooler/Pan to add the following as item #6 under Housing Assistance: “Affirmatively further fair housing as required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.” **Motion carried 7-0.**

Motion by Wegleitner/Schooler to add Dane County Housing Authority to the list of entities in item #6 under Partnerships. **Motion carried 7-0**

Motion by Schooler/Atkinson to add the following as item #3 under Residential Development: “Increase the number of single room occupancy/efficiency housing units by 100 units and the number of housing units affordable to households supporting themselves on SSI or W-2 by 100 units by September 1, 2015”. **Motion carried 7-0.**

Motion by Schooler/Pan to add the following as item #4 under Residential Development: “Facilitate development of a tiny house eco-village” **Motion carried 6-1.**

Motion by Williams/Schooler to add “persons with disabilities” to the language in item #1 and other sub-paragraphs as appropriate under Special Needs and Aging Demographic. **Motion carried 8-0.**

Motion by Pan/Schooler to add the following as item #12 under Land Availability for Housing: “Conduct an inventory of existing county land for potential affordable housing creation and transitional community living spaces.” **Motion carried 8-0.**

Motion by Zweifel/Pan to add “transportation” to item #1 under policies and programs for Neighborhood and Community Design – “Identify and promote linkages between transportation and housing policies and economic development” **Motion carried 8-0.**

Motion by Schooler/Gloede to add the following as items # 4 and 5 under Policy and Demographic Research: “4) Create a staff position responsible for housing policy. 5) Provide an annual report by September 1 of each year to the County Board that tracks and assesses the affordable and accessible housing needs in Dane County by community, using information initially provided by federal, county and cities sources”. **Motion carried 8-0.**

Motion by Atkinson/Schooler to add the following as item # 1 A (7) under Homelessness and Housing Services: “Case management that includes obtaining and sustaining income and/or benefits”. **Motion carried 8-0.**

Supervisor Wegleitner indicated the Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee will meet on July 30 to begin considering recommendations on housing issues.

The committee stood adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Saterfield, Recorder (Note: These minutes are the notes of the recorder and are subject to change at a subsequent meeting of the committee.)