



City of Fort Bragg

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Meeting Minutes Public Safety Committee

Wednesday, June 21, 2017

10:00 AM

Town Hall, 363 N. Main Street

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Committee Member Peters opened the meeting at 10:02hrs a.m..

ROLL CALL

Present: 6 - Lindy Peters, Bernie Norvell, Linda Ruffing, Fabian Lizarraga, Jennifer Owen and Lesley Bryant

Absent: 2 - Steve Orsi and Tom Varga

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Committee Member Norvell and seconded by Committee Member Peters that the minutes of the May 17, 2017 Meeting be approved. The motion was carried by a unanimous vote.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

No comments were received

CONDUCT OF BUSINESS

1. [17-205](#) Consider Possibility of Preparing a Homeless Action Plan for Fort Bragg

Committee Member Peters stated the Meeting was an informational forum only. The City Council has determined the City needs an action plan. There are no homeless social services available on the Coast, and therefore the City will need to take care of the issue. A sign up sheet had been placed at the front table for people to sign up for further information and to be kept "in the loop".

City Manager Linda Ruffing began the presentation of the Staff Report by stating the City was responding to community complaints, that the numbers of homeless people were increasing. Based on the last "Point in Time" count, Fort Bragg has a very high per capita compared to the national average. The report shows there is clearly a housing problem. The City does not deliver homeless services. Law enforcement intersects homelessness and Public Safety. The approach needs to be two fold; to reduce the number of homeless persons, and to minimize the negative effects. There needs to be focused discussions with stakeholder groups for specific groups i.e. Housing, Extreme Weather Shelter, Transitional Housing, and Feeding programs.

This is not a new thing, people have been thinking about this for a long time, we do not need to reinvent the wheel. The business community and residents need to be reached out to, as well as the homeless community. The plan would then need to be publicly reviewed. A draft document needs to be generated after three or four months, to be brought back to the Public Safety Committee in October or November to be finalized before being presented to the City Council.

Committee Member Norvell asked if a specific dollar amount of CDBG Funds could be provided. City Manager Ruffing stated no, but that lots of money had been brought in to various organizations. Jennifer Owen added that the funds had gone to organizations either directly or indirectly, but than no more than 50% of each grant can go to services for the homeless.

Previous funding years have been approximately \$500,000.00 and have been very effective. The Mendocino Coast Community Center and Hospitality House have exceed projected numbers.

Organizations from around the County, including medical facilities, Health and Human Services, Redwood Community Services, were asked 4 questions, and each agency that had a representative at the Meeting stated they were willing to participate in the planning process. Each agency provided details as to the programs they already provide to the homeless community, and any upcoming programs. They also provided details on what they would like to achieve, providing there were no barriers or regulations as well as providing details on the biggest obstacles to solving the homeless issue.

The general opinion was that poverty and the lack of affordable housing were the two big obstacles to homelessness and those close to being homeless. The lack of mental health facilities that could serve coastal residents was highlighted although with the change in care providers, the situation seems to be getting better and a wider spectrum of services.

Committee Member Peters ended the discussion by stating the information will be compiled and the action plan will include landlords, business owners, the homeless community and service providers. It would appear the biggest denominator is housing.

Public comments were heard from Rusty Easter, Ana Munoz, Charles Peavey, Kianna Zielesch, Douglas Chouteau, Kathy Silva, Scott Chapman, Robert Schlosser, Carol White, Sage Wolf, Richard Mack, Maya Stuart.

2. [17-210](#) Receive Oral Update from Staff on Departmental Activities

No updates to report

MATTERS FROM COMMITTEE / STAFF

ADJOURNMENT

Committee Member Peters adjourned the meeting at 1:15hrs p.m.