



City of Albany
Homeless Task Force
Thursday, October 18, 2012 – 7:00 pm
Albany Senior Center, 846 Masonic Avenue – South Room

Meeting Outline

	ITEMS	TIME
1.	Meeting process: Adoption of September 20, 2012 Meeting Notes, Discuss whether or not to select a Chair person, December meeting date	7:00 – 7:15 PM
2.	Staff update: Meeting with Operation Dignity, Status of homeless member on Task Force, etc.	7:15 – 7:25 PM
3.	Task Force Members report on research regarding existing programs that serve the homeless	7:25 – 7:50 PM
4.	Report from April on concerns from the homeless at the Bulb	7:50 - 8:10 PM
5.	Identify and prioritize short-term and long-term goals	8:10 – 8:40 PM
6.	Frame January City Council report	8:40 - 8:55 PM
7.	Items for the next Agenda	8:55 – 9:00 PM
8.	Adjournment	9:00 PM

Attachments:

- a) September Meeting Notes
- b) Homeless Task Force Workshop Presentation by Ann Chaney
- c) Brainstorming list

Next meeting: November 15, 2012 at 7:00 PM



DRAFT

**City of Albany
Homeless Task Force
Thursday, September 20, 2012 – 7:00 pm
Albany Senior Center, 846 Masonic Avenue – South Room**

Meeting Notes

Members present: Ruth Cashmere, Barbara Chambers, Brian Johns, Lisa Kleinbub, Gordon McCarter, Paul O’Curry, Sharon Pipkin, Steve Thrush, and Julie Ann Winkelstein
Staff present: Jeff Bond, Ann Chaney and Isabelle Leduc

1. Meeting Process – Approve Meeting note format; meeting location; clarification on affect of election on existing WFC and SEJC members; and Brown Act.

Motion: Motion was made by Member Johns and seconded by Member McCarter to approve the Meeting Notes as amended. Motion carried all in favor.

- The Task Force will continue to meet at the Albany Senior Center
- Staff informed the Task Force that WFC and SEJC members must be active to remain on the Task Force after the elections.
- Staff provided clarification on the Brown Act and the use of subcommittee.
- Starting in October the meetings of the Task Force will be voice recorded.

2. Staff Update

- Jeff Bond provided an overview of the upcoming beach and neck restoration at the waterfront and its affect on existing roads and paths.
- Isabelle Leduc announced that staff would be meeting with Operation Dignity on Monday, September 24, 2012 to explore doing a census of the homeless population at the bulb.

3. Review Homeless Task Force Staff Report and Work Plan

Motion: Motion was made by Member Thrush and seconded by Member McCarter to propose to Council at the earliest possible meeting that a representative from the Albany Homeless population be on the Task Force and that the Task Force be responsible for the selection of the new member. The Task Force is recommending that a Task Force subcommittee distributes and reviews all applications receive from the homeless population and submits the top 3 to the Task force for consideration. Motion carried all in favor.

4. Dental Resources

- Task Force Members reported on their research regarding dental resources.

5. Homeless Task Force Short-term and long-term goals

- Task Force Members created a list of goals to be reviewed at the next meeting.

6. Items for the Next Agenda

- January report to Council
- Review, identify and prioritize short term and long term goals
- Report out from Task Force members on research regarding existing programs implemented in other communities
- Report from April on greatest concerns from the homeless at the Bulb
- Report from staff on meeting with Operation Dignity

7. Adjournment

Homelessness at the Albany Bulb

Presentation by Ann Chaney, Community Development Consultant,
to Albany Homeless Task Force 7/19/2012

Ordinance (1999) – (1 slide)

- 1999 - City Council passed ordinance prohibiting overnight camping in any “park, recreation, open space, waterfront or Albany Hill area”. However, in passing the Ord. the CC directed that it not be enforced for 3 months, to allow time for people to transition off Waterfront.

- What lead up to passage?
 - Prior to 1997, most Albany homeless lived under freeways/Albany Hill
 - 1997 - Caltrans began major improvements to I-80/580 freeway interchange; thereby causing homeless to migrate to Albany Waterfront (includes Bulb, Plateau and Neck).
 - City realized it needed appropriate policy regarding management of City-owned lands due to concerns about safety and activities such as fires, sanitary conditions, so on;
 - Same time, CA State Parks and EBRPD expressed interest in acquiring Albany WF land for incorporation into the future Eastshore State Park, and one concern related to homeless population;
 - Thus, for these reasons, City Council began pursuing a no overnight camping Ord., but wanted it to be handled in benevolent manner.

- Enter an organization called “Operation Dignity”
 - City staff turned to this Veteran-run non-profit organization, which works with homeless veterans and displaced populations in Alameda County.
 - Several months before passage of Ordinance, O.D. began providing mobile outreach to the 100+ homeless, which included bringing medical doctors, blankets, and caseworkers who began working with these individuals.
 - To help w/ transition, O.D. moved 4 of their portable trailers, equipped w/ beds, onto land offered by GGF.
 - GGF also provided \$10K to offset O.D. costs and paid for electrical hookups.
 - City rented a shower/bathroom unit, which enabled people to live in the trailers, and start the transition process.
 - When staff recently met w/ OD, surprised to learn no one was permanently housed as part of that effort.

- O.D. wasn't thinking about permanent housing at that time; today it's different; they now operate several complexes.
- City staff also wanted to offer temporary housing, social services, and help individuals reunite with family members.
- Here ---- Enlisted the help of BOSS.
- BOSS = Building Opportunities for Self Sufficiency; has nearby transitional shelter at 5th and Harrison.
- BOSS shelter not only provided transitional housing but also lockers/mail boxes/phone privileges for contacting families and friends.
- Throughout process, care was taken to keep the individuals informed, and make sure they were notified before removing any personal property
- When it came time to finally enforce the Ord., all but about 10 of the more than 100 homeless individuals had left.

From 1999 to Present -

Discuss City's activities and focus between 1999 and Present --- Some of which involved the homeless, some did not.

A. Landfill Closure Order – (Aerial Map)

- Albany landfill (made up of Bulb, Neck & Plateau) was constructed early 1960's and operated until 1983.
- Landfill material consisted primarily of construction debris, landscape waste rather than garbage that decomposes.
- 1985 – RWQCB ordered landfill be "capped" or covered due to possible chemical risks to Bay.
- City installed 7 monitoring wells throughout the Bulb; conducted annual water quality tests.
- In mid-1990's report commissioned by City found landfill posed "MINIMAL RISKS and that capping the landfill would neither be cost-effective nor environmentally beneficial."
- Report was prepared by experts in the field, who proposed a reclamation plan instead.
- While the plan was finalized in 2004 it was not implemented because...
- In 2005 – RWQCB lifted "capping" Order based on years of water quality tests which showed that the landfill was no longer threatening the Bay.

Another important planning process involved... **(from 2000 to 2004)**

B. Eastshore State Park General Plan – (2 slides - Cover & Map)

- City Council, staff & WF Committee actively participated in this multi-year planning process initiated by CA State Parks, EBRPD, & CA Coastal Conservancy.
- Plan adopted in 2004 & set stage for Beach Restoration Plan, I'll touch on later.
- Shown here is plan map for Albany's Waterfront; Plan also includes policies related to land uses, vegetation and habitat management.

A project that may seem unimportant, but was not, was the rehabilitation of

C. Access "Lower" Road (1 slide - Lower Road Photo)

- Up until 2008 - Inadequate access to Bulb hampered Fire Dept ability to respond to fires and personal emergencies;
- Also limited Police ability to patrol and Public Work's ability to maintain
- Old landfill road overgrown, major pot holes (i.e., inaccessible)
- In 2008 City rehabilitated "Lower" Road; now used by authorized vehicles.
- Although Police have limited resources, an officer now patrols twice a day.
- Note: Around 1999, State Parks/EBRPD purchased Plateau and most of Neck, and currently provides maintenance and enforcement to those areas.

D. Vegetation Management (2 Photos) Several times over past 10 years...

- 2010 City hired CiviCorps (aka EB Conservation Corps) to clear Scotch Broome & pampas grass along either side of major trails.
- These invasive/non-native species selected:
 - 1) enhance bird habitat and
 - 2) consistent with ESP General Plan policies.
- One reason for work --- paths had become overgrown.
- Intent to make paths feel less enclosed and safer to walkers.
- Clearly vegetation was not an easy task!!

E. Outreach & Camp Clean-up (3 slides)

- Several years ago, Joanne Wile and I "shadowed" Eve Ahmed, Berkeley Mental Health) as she talked with people at the Bulb.
- Afterward, we agreed we should "meet" with folks at Bulb to better understand needs; make sure they knew what social services were available.
- Between 2009 and 2011 had 4 or 5 such get-togethers, served sandwiches and juice provided by local merchants. Each time approx. 15 to 20 attended.
- Organizations that participated in "lunch get-togethers":

- Berkeley Mental Health – Eve; BOSS/Multi-Agency Service Center; Berkley Food & Housing Project; Vet Admin; and Homeless Action Center – HAC provides legal services to displaced people; You’ll hear more about these organizations later tonight.
- During this time 4 people were permanently housed w/ help of City of Berkeley, and organizations just mentioned.
- Councilmember Wile and staff also contributed to the effort.
- As a result of this, some camps were now abandoned. – SHOW SLIDES
- City hired CiviCorps to help clean up unoccupied campsites.
- Dumpsters placed at Bulb for this purpose were also used by others to clean up own sites.
- People at Bulb expressed appreciation for the clean-up effort and asked that a dumpster be placed there permanently.

F. Dumpster & Porta Potty (1 slide)

- In response, City now has informal agreement w/ Waste Management to deliver a dumpster on regular basis once every three months for a period of two weeks at a time for homeless to us.
- Note: City worked w/EBRPD to have Porta Potty placed at end of parking lot; EBRPD owns and maintains that facility.

Future Plans for the Area (3 slides)

G. East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) is proposing project that would:

- Restore Albany Beach and improve public access to the Beach and Neck areas.
- Three main components:
 1. Repair/reconstruct shoreline, including improving accessibility, along Neck shoreline & northern Beach area.
 2. Enhance beach & dune areas, construct restroom & parking at Albany Beach.
 3. Construct new SF Bay Trail between Albany Beach and Gilman Street.
- EBRPD has released Draft Environmental Impact Report on this project.
- Assuming project is finally authorized to proceed, the District plans to begin construction on part of the project by 2014.

End -----“what happens after 2012 will be guided by the work of Task Force.”

Homeless Task Force Meeting September 20, 2012

Item 5: Homeless Task Force long-term and short-term goals

Ending Homeless in Albany Brainstorming

1. Drop in center, all in one place, multi service center
2. Facilities at the bulb such as porta potty
3. Dumpster regularly at the bulb
4. Identify current funding sources available
5. Long term plan for funding: private, federal, county etc.
6. Identifying actual funding sources for housing, for social services, health, education, jobs, job skills, etc
7. Educating ourselves about model programs, resources
8. Job, employment opportunities, job placement, hiring resources
9. Address dental / vision
10. Dealing with legal issues/ judicial advocacy program
11. Buddy system, mentoring to assist
12. Community involvement such as reaching out to local dentists for free dental care
13. Community service in exchange for service
14. Transition living situation
15. Everybody working together
16. Inspire dignity and respect
17. Changing community perception from fear and misunderstanding to understanding and compassion (how to speak about it in a sensitive way)
18. Cooperation with City of Berkeley for Mental Health Services
19. Advocacy for increase cooperation with Alameda County
20. Preserving the environment at the bulb
21. Mitigate the environmental impact of housing out at the bulb
22. Comprehensive and effective harm reduction drug and alcohol program
23. Seek cooperation/involvement with UC Berkeley and corporate world
24. "Wet" houses (check w/Seattle & SF)
25. Albany non –profit organization for community involvement (funding) "Albany Cares"/seek public contributions
26. Safe return for people coming out of prison/re-entry program/court with resources
27. Divert from a law enforcement issue to a social services program
28. Research other programs that are working as to not reinvent the wheel (e.g. Santa Clara County)
29. Register the homeless to vote
30. People with disabilities

*Numbers do not indicate priority order