



**City of Albany**  
**Homeless Task Force**  
**Thursday, January 17, 2013 – 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, Julie Ann Winkelstein and Amber Whitson.

Member absent: Sharon Pipkin and Steve Thrush

Staff present: Ann Chaney and Isabelle Leduc

**1. Adoption of December 20, 2012 Meeting Notes**

**Motion:** Motion was made by Member O'Curry and seconded by Member Whitson to accept the December 20, 2012 meeting notes. Motion carried all in favor.

**2. Staff Update**

- Staff Leduc provided information on the upcoming City Board training January 29 and the City's e-newsletter and e-notification tool on the City's website.

**3. Report on January City Council upcoming meeting – Members Pipkin, Kleinbub and Winkelstein.**

- Members Kleinbub and Pipkin will be presenting the first interim report to the Council January 22.

**4. Report on MHSA Advisory Committee – Member Thrush**

- Tabled. Member Thrush was absent

**5. Options on ending homelessness in Albany**

- Staff Chaney suggested that the Task Force set back a moment from developing options, and encouraged members to think about what values we would all share or want for any individual who was homeless.

- The Task Force compiled a list of shared values: happiness, prosperity, existence without want, understanding of long-term/future, sustainable, shared vision, warmth, housing, food, safety, respect, dignity, sanitary conditions, security of habitat, freedom, autonomy, empowerment, acceptance/parity, access to health care(all), education of available services, employment, appreciation of what homeless persons do at the Bulb
- The Task Force enumerated the Pros and Cons of the following two options:

Dignity Village Model

Pros: Preferred by homeless person, autonomy, no income requirements, self-governing/rules, teaching each other, supportive community, commonality

Cons: Fundability, substandard housing, resistance from public, in conflict with ESP Plan, inconvenient for access to services/food/basic needs

Permanent Housing with Supportive Services (scattered units)

Pros: May be more compatible with Albany/County availability of housing, existing infrastructure and funding, support services may prevent homelessness

Cons: Isolation, resistance from public, loss of autonomy, income requirement

- Other possible options were also enumerated for future research:
  - Reuse abandoned housing or housing needing rehabilitation,
  - Programs for preventing homelessness (Social Services)
  - Reducing barriers to providing housing in Albany: increase height limits, encourage 2<sup>nd</sup> units, increase density, less stringent parking requirements

**6. Research on programs that serve the homeless.**

- Member Whitson provided information on Sierra Roots' Eco-Village which provides access to fertile land, organic farming and food, related education, self-governance and healthy housing for Veterans, Native Americans and local residents who are homeless (located in Nevada City area).
- Member Whitson provided information on Camp Take Notice, a self-governing, grassroots tent community in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

- Member Whitson also mentioned that veterinary services and shower availability should be added to the brainstorming list.

#### **7. City of Berkeley Public Commons for Everyone Initiative (PCEI) Overview**

- Due to lack of time, staff Leduc encouraged Task Force Members to review the PCEI summary and full report provided in the packet and to go on the City of Berkeley's website for more up-to-date information.

#### **8. Overview of McLaughlin East Shore State Park Plan (time permitting)**

- Due to lack of time staff Chaney will go over this item in greater details at the next meeting, but did state that the Park Plan designates the Bulb for "Conservation".
- Member McCarter mentioned that he met with Citizens for Eastshore State Park (CESP) who have an interest in keeping the Bulb as a wildlife area with no camping allowed. More information may be provided at the next meeting.

#### **9. Items for the Next Agenda**

- McLaughlin Eastshore State Park Plan
- EveryOne Home overview – Presentation by Elaine DeColigny (March)
- MHSA report from Member Thrush
- Proposed Timeline for next 10 months
- Access to showers and storage – Member O'Curry
- Homeless Bill of Rights – Presentation by Member Johns

#### **9. Adjournment: 9:24 PM**