



Mar Vista Community Council



Homeless Issues Sub-Committee Meeting MEETING MINUTES

Date: 2/19/20 6:30-7:45PM

Mar Vista Branch Library 12006 Venice Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90066

1. Call to Order and Introductions

Called to order at 6:33 pm.

Robert Watkins M.D. and Renee Sabshin M.D. introduced themselves as new Co-Chairs.

MVCC Board members Christine Stemar, At-Large Director and Chair of the Public Health and Safety Committee, Budget Advocates Primary and Kathryn Wheeler, At-Large Director, Outreach Committee Chair. Present.

Stakeholders also introduced themselves. Present: C.S., D.H., S.K., R.H., S.H., J.T., S.W., M.K., E.M., K.M., K.W., N.S., S.K., K.W.

Nick Sundback, Office of Councilmember Bonin. Present.

2. Approval of Last Meeting's Minutes

No minutes provided from last meeting by last Chair to approve.

3. Announcements

K. Wheeler mentioned she brought Mar Vista curb signs to pass out.

S.K reported Venice Bridge Housing Open House Feb 22. Per R. Watkins, RSVP done online.

4. Public Comment for Items Not on This Agenda (2 minutes per person)

Stakeholder mentioned voices on homeless issues on NextDoor, requested meetings be posted there to increase attendance.

K.Wheeler mentioned weekly MVCC posting on NextDoor list upcoming MVCC meetings, recommended subscribing to the MVCC newsletter and Round-Up. MVCC has restrictions on posting. Any stakeholder can post MVCC meeting times on NextDoor. R. Watkins mentioned he is blocked from NextDoor, co-chairs will consider posting.

K.W. mentioned last night's Venice Neighborhood Council as being "pure anarchy," as homeless advocates there to support a Bboard member being removed from the Board, disrupted and intimidated attendees. Back-up police called. She cautioned against listening to only vocal stakeholders while quieter or intimidated stakeholder may have important insights.

5. Discussion of Mission Statement

The Homeless Issues Sub-Committee mission is to promote stakeholder input concerning homeless issues in our community. The Committee encourages involvement, provides relevant information and resources, acts as advocate and liaison, and supports viable and equitable solutions.

K. Wheeler motioned to approve, stakeholder seconded. K.W. expressed keeping statement general is a good thing. Stakeholder asked for clarification of use of "advocate" and "liaison." R. Sabshin replied advocate for our community members, both housed and unhoused; liaison between interested

parties including stakeholders, public officials, police, service providers. R. Watkins replied committee would like to work with anyone interested in homeless solutions.

Motion passed. No opposition.

6. Set Sub-Committee Goals

S.M.A.R.T. – Specific. Measurable. Attainable. Realistic. Timely.

R. Sabshin reported Co-Chairs' goal is to end people sleeping on the streets in Mar Vista. K. Wheeler discussed lack of statistics on what is working, mentioned lack of stats at recent bridge housing meeting. R. Watkins concurred. S.K described bridge housing at El Pueblo as beautiful and working well. R. Sabshin discussed there are stats that measure time from Bridge to permanent housing and the stats aren't great; but there isn't enough housing. Measured by other parameters, bridge housing may be successful.

K. Wheeler mentioned setting up resource fair at Rec Center. S.K. mentioned The Source provides regular walk-in services at Mar Vista Library.

R. Watkins gave more specific goal of 20% decrease in people sleeping on the streets in Mar Vista, every year, for 5 years. Stakeholder stated we need to find out who the homeless are and why homeless. R. Watkins asks, "What is the City doing." Stakeholder mentioned County Supervisors asking for LAHSA to review efforts, provide data. R. Sabshin mentioned recent Ridley-Thomas/Steinberg recommendations. R. Watkins mentioned LAHSA vs. LATimes and UCLA stats on mental illness and substance abuse among homeless persons, need for substance abuse services. N. Sundback reported data and stats are not accurate because of turnover of service providers, Medi-Cal limiting slots for psychotherapy by contract mental health providers, State is updating Medi-Cal through CalAIM initiative.

All present agreed on goal of decreasing number of people sleeping on the streets in Mar Vista by 20% per year, every year, for five years, Plan for next meeting is to bring statistics to inform efforts.

7. Discussion of Community Resources

R. Sabshin stated frustration in offering resources as stakeholders have likely tried and express poor responses, thanked S.K. for creating the homeless resource guide available on MVCC website and for pamphlets and information on area resources here tonight. S.K. mentioned need for guide updates. K.W. and S.K. reported handing guides out in the community. Several stakeholders discussed need for substance abuse resources and problems of meth and fentanyl use on the streets, need to treat addiction as an illness, provide care to prevent homelessness. Stakeholder discussed rental increases and whether there is available help for renters.

8. Update on Bridge Housing

R. Watkins gave update from recent Bridge Housing meeting including description of Bridge Housing in Venice, number of beds (154) long waiting list, 3-year timeline before being closed, expectation of four turnovers a year. Clean-up expected and ban on encampments in the area. Requirement of homelessness in the area to be accepted. Stakeholder discussed homeless encampment members at 405/Venice being ineligible. Discussion ensued about homeless encampment clean-ups with S.K. providing information on requirements. Stakeholder discussed VA Bridge Housing.

9. Discussion of Motion to Reprioritize LAHSA Homeless Housing Strategy

Motion read through by all present. K. Wheeler moved to approve. S.K seconded. Discussion mainly around CES and VI-SPDAT, definitions of high and low acuity. K. Wheeler motioned to amend motion to include specific scores relevant to acuity and priority. R. Watkins seconded. Amendment passed, no objection. Motion passed, with amendments, no objection, 19-0.

10. Appeal for Volunteer to Coordinate HIC meetings, Agendas, Social Media

Left for next meeting.

11. Second Round of Public Comment

No comments.

12. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.

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