

HOUSING TASKFORCE MINUTES

AUGUST 15TH, 2023

ATTENDANCE: Corey Gately, Daisy Pierce, Marc McNamara, Peter Spanos, Rev. Judith Wright, Tammy Carmichael, Tim Joubert, Andrew Hosmer, Lisa Mure, Beth Heyward, Donna Manna, Virtual Attendance: Eric Adams and Debra Shackett

Call to order at 5:33pm

Daisy began the meeting reviewing the minutes from the last meeting. The members took a minute to correct and analyze the minutes. However, after deliberating, no corrections were made.

Introductions completed.

Daisy then addressed the first topic on the agenda, updates on the supportive housing units from Carmen. Carmen explained that the goal of the supportive housing project is to demolish a burned building; clean up the area, to rebuild a 12 unit supporting housing building. She is currently in the process to provide parking that would meet code requirements with a variance for the potential residents to the home on Bay St.

Any questions or comments?

A member wanted clarification on parking. Carmen explained requesting of the local planning committee a parking space variant. The zoning board requires 12 parking spaces (one for each unit) in which they are having some issues accommodating, they only currently have 6 onsite. Carmen is hoping for the demolition grant to go through to provide them with more opportunities as well as considering her added parking from another location as it has been tabled due to her pending request.

Any questions or concerns?

Andrew expressed concerns on the Bay St. project. He explained many people would not be on board with having this type of housing in their backyard and there had been a significant pushback from a small group of people. Andrew did say that he understands the requirement of 12 parking spaces but that others find it unnecessary considering the lack of drivers that there will be due to the purpose of this housing for low-income population, and many will go unused. He expressed that he did agree with this statement and the opinions the community offered in this sense.

Andrew thought that the city will eventually be liable for cleaning the lot if the LLC, who currently owns the property, stops paying property taxes. Which in that case, he would like to see a cleaned up vacant lot. Andrew said he doesn't want to give up on this but has his concerns about the next step of this project and that he values the community's opinions. Charlie Sinclair does plan to walk the community and speak with residents. Carmen agrees to the uncertainty with the process and the limited options they will have if her requests aren't approved. Which in that case, this project will not continue.

A member added that this whole plan sounds very similar to recovery housing, in which there are several in the community already. She ultimately wondered if other sober housing has parking variants and if that's something she could use in her favor when making this request.

Eric spoke up and said the the reason against this, at least from the community and possibly the board, is based on lack of education and discrimination. He had requested a list of all the properties Carmen owns and how it has impacted law enforcement. It was found that there were little issues that involved law enforcement. If these reports were presented to the board and others, people may look at this differently and have a more optimistic vision of this project. Taskforce communication and education subcommittee is drafting a letter of support for from the Taskforce for Carmen.

Daisy proceeded to next agenda item: Mobile Integrated Healthcare Initiative

Chief Joubert handed out a flyer describing a paramedicine project for the Laconia fire department funding application. This project would allow first responders to provide supports and assistance to individuals regarding the social determinants of health that would essentially reduce avoidable Emergency Room visits and hospitalizations. The application is close to completion.

Next Agenda item: Reports from Subcommittees:

Harm Reduction and First Responder: Corey

- Developing a workshop for business leaders to take place in fall
- Cleanliness of Porta-Potties around downtown Laconia
 - Isaiahs closing at 1:00 now
 - No public restrooms
 - Sanitation concerns

Housing and Land Use: Did not meet

Pallet Shelter Community: Daisy –

- Burlington does not allow tours; trying to schedule zoom meeting
 - Surrounding Community impact
 - How to develop managing entity
 - Best practices and lessons learned

Communication and Education Subcommittee: Tammy

- Working on Draft Letter of Support for Carmen's project
- Next will be Draft email to forum attendees to share report
- Developing regular press release with education and information send to Tammy and will work into the plan

Other Business:

Daisy and Eric presented the Forum report to the City Council. Andrew believed well received; if want city to develop a budget for this project need to develop a good strategic plan with measurable outcomes.

Strategic Plan Development: Daisy

- Met with Pear associates approximately \$26k for completion
- JSI did not have capacity at this time
- Daisy attempting to contact one other agency that specifically does homelessness strategic plans

State School Property to close September 1, 2023

Landlord Incentive Program moving forward for landlords regarding tenants that are struggling trying to work upstream to reduce increase in those experiencing homelessness.

The meeting is adjourned at 6:45pm