

City of Alameda, California
SOCIAL SERVICE HUMAN RELATIONS BOARD
THURSDAY, October 28, 2021
DRAFT MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Sarah Lewis called the meeting to order at 7:02pm.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: President Sarah Lewis, Vice President Kristin Furuichi Fong, Board members Dianne Yamashiro-Omi, Priya Jagannathan, Samantha Green, Scott Means.

Absent: Board member Tony Lewis (unexcused).

City staff: Lois Butler, Veronika Cole, and Eric Fonstein (Secretary to the Board).

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3-A 2021- 1434 Review and Approve September 23, 2021 Draft Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of September 23, 2021 was made by Vice President Furuichi Fong and seconded by Board member Yamashiro-Omi. Ayes: President S. Lewis, Vice President Furuichi Fong, Board members Yamashiro-Omi, Jagannathan, Green, and Means. Nays: none. Motion passed 6-0.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

5. AGENDA ITEMS

5-A Discussion with Former SSHRB members

Jennifer Williams (President, Board of Education, Alameda Unified School District) and Doug Biggs (Executive Director, Alameda Point Collaborative) introduced themselves and provided a brief biography and background, detailing their previous roles and responsibilities while serving as a Board member for SSHRB.

Board members expressed appreciation for their attendance and insight. Following is a summary of questions from the Board members:

- What were specific actions which benefitted the community?
- Looking back, was there any unfinished business which you wished had been highlighted?
- Asked for additional suggestions for the current SSHRB members.

Following is a summary of suggestions from Jennifer Williams and Doug Biggs:

- Much of SSHRB's work affects the lives of Alameda's most vulnerable populations.

- One of SSHRB's core function is to identify community needs. SSHRB standardized its assessment tool to be used for CDBG grants.
- Emphasized the importance of focusing on human relations in the aftermath of the pandemic and the planning of strategic events/focus groups (examples include "Alamedans Together Against Hate" and the "In the Mix" workshop).
- Ensuring that the City of Alameda is receiving benefits from Alameda County, which we are legally entitled to. Reaching out to surrounding cities for insight and collaboration.
- Highlighted the urgency to assist the homeless community and unsheltered families, and the need to educate the community about the needs of the most vulnerable.
- The Community Service Awards were created to celebrate volunteerism and to help recruit SSHRB members.

5-B Discuss Agenda for SSHRB "Retreat"

President S. Lewis introduced Renato Almanzor, Retreat Facilitator.

Renato Almanzor provided a brief biography and explained his approach to facilitating, especially how to access feeling and opinions to achieve optimal outcome. Mr. Almanzor asked Board members what they would like to know, feel and be able to do, following the retreat.

Board members highlight the following goals:

- Getting to know the other Board members, their visions for the Board, and what they would like to accomplish
- Develop a further sense of community amongst each other, building a foundation or trust, cooperation, and unity
- Establishing a clear feasible set of priorities that can be accomplished in 12 months
- Identify individual strengths and connections to ensure maximum effectiveness
- How to consider perspectives not represented on the Board

Mr. Fonstein confirmed the SSHRB "Retreat" subcommittee will meet again on November 1 to finalize the retreat agenda.

5-C Review and Comment on the Draft Climate Adaptation and Hazard Mitigation Plan

Danielle Mieler, the City of Alameda's Sustainability and Resilience Manager, presented on the Draft Climate Adaptation and Hazard Mitigation Plan, highlighting the following key segments:

- Addressing the natural and climate induced hazards that impact the City
- Create a more disaster-resistant and resilient community
- Eligibility for hazard mitigation assistance programs
- Current local hazard mitigation plan was approved by FEMA in November 2016 – Must be updated every 5 years
- Soft-story building program
- Wood framed buildings program
- Resilient electrical service
- Public education and outreach

- Emergency transportation planning
- Emergency fuel agreements
- Citywide sea level rise adaptation plan

Board members thanked Ms. Mieler for her presentation and confirming the immediate need to address the sea level rising.

Board President Lewis expressed concern surrounding community fear and the lack of education pertaining to sea level. She pointed out that we can do much to mitigate the risks we face.

Board member Means suggested verbiage be changed to person first language (i.e. Disabled to Persons with disabilities and Elderly or seniors)

Board member Yamashiro-Omi stated that the report seemed to be missing an action plan for some of the vulnerable population during a crisis. In additional, she asked why the report did not include cost estimated for proposed work plan. Ms. Mieler answered that cost projects will be further developed.

5-D Workgroup Reports

- Homeless Action Plan Workgroup: A motion to move report to after the Community Service Awards was made by Board member Yamashiro-Omi and seconded by Board member Green. Ayes: President S. Lewis, Vice President Furuichi Fong, Board members Yamashiro-Omi, Jagannathan, Green, and Means. Nays: none. Motion passed 6-0.
- Domestic Violence: Mr. Fonstein confirmed the next quarterly meeting will be on December 9.
- Community Service Awards: Board Vice President Furuichi Fong reported that the events program is close to being completed. The food and entertainment for the event has been set. She asked for Board member volunteers to present awards (either live via zoom, or pre-recorded). Board members Yamashiro-Omi, Jagannathan, Green, and Means all volunteered.
- Homeless Action Plan Workgroup: Ms. Butler provided an update following recent meeting, highlighting the below key segments:
 - Alameda Food Bank has announced the implementation of Mobile Van services
 - Alameda Point Collaboration confirmed that North Housing is being finalized (estimate 90 units), and that 100% of individuals selected will come from the Coordinated Entry List.
 - Building Futures, Women and Children: Outreach teams are currently working in Alameda. Food is being provided by Christ Church with laundry services on Thursdays, and some car repair services. The Midway Shelter is currently at 60% capacity, with 80% confirmed to be vaccinated.
 - Dine & Connect is serving up to 106 meals, 4 to 5 times a month (depending on the number of Monday's per month).
 - Eden I&R 211 stated an issue with current hold times (one instance exceeded 90 minutes). They have added two more staff members and are

looking for help to encourage both tenants and landlords to utilize rental assistance programs.

- Mastick Senior Center: They reported that seniors are excited to start moving back inside for meals, which is complemented with the continuing “grab and go” service.
- Board member Green volunteered to attend future meetings and help with reporting back to SSHRB.

5-E Schedule November/December Special SSHRB Meeting

Mr. Fonstein confirmed the need to combine the November/December meeting due to holidays. Proposed the following dates: December 2, December 9 and December 16. All of the Board members, except Board member Green, confirmed their availability on December 9 for the next SSHRB meeting.

6. STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

6-A Homelessness Updates and Initiatives

- Feed Alameda's last date was on October 13. Program is now closed.
- Transitional Housing Program (community cabins/tiny homes)—Staff issued an RFP and selected a service provider. Staff to bring the program to City Council for recommendation on November 16. The site on 5th and Stargell, will provide 46 units.
- Encampments—Ms. Butler reported that Main Street encampment has been moved from one side of the street to the other, to ensure hazardous waste is not getting into the estuary. The Alameda Police Department cleared the encampment on private property behind Encinal Terminal.
- Homeless Housing Assistance Program (HHAP) funding – No additional update.
- The City of Alameda entered into an agreement with Building Futures to provide Warming Shelter Services with a hotel (7 rooms for unhoused/unhealthy individuals). Ms. Butler reported that the Day Center will be open for extended hours (9am-8pm), 365 days a year.

7. BOARD COMMUNICATIONS, NON-AGENDA

None.

8. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

None.

9. ADJOURNMENT

President Lewis adjourned the meeting at 9:16 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Eric Fonstein, Board Secretary