

City of Alameda, California
SOCIAL SERVICE HUMAN RELATIONS BOARD
THURSDAY, July 23, 2020

DRAFT MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Christine Chilcott called the meeting to order at 7:03pm.

2. ROLL CALL

Attendance: President Christine Chilcott, Vice President Pravda Wright, Board Members Joanna Paillet-Growl, Kristin Furuichi Fong, Moustafa Aly, and Sarah Lewis.

City staff: Ana Bagtas, Eric Fonstein, Lois Butler

Absent: none

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion to approve the minutes of May 28, 2020 was made by Board Member Paillet-Growl and seconded by Board Member Furuchi Fong. Ayes: President Chilcott, Vice President Wright, Board Members Paillet-Growl, Furuichi Fong, Lewis, and Aly. Nays: none. Motion carried unanimously.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Public Speaker Nancy Shemick expressed appreciation for SSHRB and requested clarification on the future use of the Marina Village Inn, which is currently being utilized as a shelter for elderly women and victims of domestic violence and their children to shelter during the pandemic through the County-run Project Roomkey. Shemick and other community members were unable to reach County Supervisor Wilma Chan's office for clarification. Shemick expressed concern about the lack of communication with community members about the project and would like there to be an opportunity for the public to provide input. Shemick stated that without clear and transparent information being relayed to the community, misinformation has been spreading and contributing to increased community concern surrounding the Marina Village Inn. Staff member Bagtas clarified that Marina Village Inn remains a potential site for lease-to-purchase by the County and acknowledged the need for increased communication with the community. Bagtas confirmed that a community meeting has been requested from the County.

5. AGENDA ITEMS

5a. Update on Alameda Active Transportation Plan and Draft Recommendations

Rochelle Wheeler, Senior Transportation Coordinator at the City of Alameda, presented an update on the Alameda Active Transportation Plan that included a summary of outreach and analysis done so far, draft recommendations, and next steps. Specific draft

recommendations included: proposed bicycle network, pedestrian infrastructure recommendations, Webster, Park, and Lincoln Street concept designs, draft programs and policies, and priorities. Wheeler welcomed comments from Board Members and answered their questions. Discussion included impact of restriping of Park and Webster St due to COVID-19 on bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure recommendations, tracking traffic flow, safety, and noise impacts from restriping, benefits and challenges of slow streets, potential bike boulevards, and deadline of August 16th for surveys. Board expressed appreciation for Wheeler and the Alameda Active Transportation Plan efforts to make Alameda a safer environment for pedestrians and bicyclists.

5b. Informational Update Regarding City Council's Efforts and Plan to Address Changes to Policing and Other Social Issues

Staff member Fonstein briefed the board on a City resolution declaring racism as a public health emergency and a crisis affecting the entire community. He informed the Board that the City is creating subcommittees to address issues of racism and develop recommended changes to policing. Staff member Bagtas confirmed with the Board that City staff will keep the Board informed of these items. It is unclear at the moment whether SSHRB will have a role and to what degree.

5c. Review 2020 Work Plan and Provide Direction As Needed

Staff member Fonstein reviewed SSHRB's 2020 work plan and requested input on changes due to COVID-19 and current events, including rescheduling the Season for Non-Violence Speech Contest, postponing Board election until the fall, scheduling a possible Board retreat, and planning the annual Community Service Awards.

Fonstein welcomed comments from Board Members and answered their questions. Board members discussed hosting a virtual Community Service Awards ceremony. Board Members volunteered to participate in a work group to plan the event. Board Members elected to postpone the Speech Contest due to the uncertainty in school schedule/format due to COVID-19. This can be re-evaluated at a later time.

5d. Workgroup Progress Reports

- Census 2020 – Staff members Bagtas and Fonstein reported on outreach efforts being made (online outreach, county and city chalk-contest, canvas bag giveaway through library) during the shelter-in-place order. Census response completion rate in Alameda is at 74%, and response rates in majority of Alameda's census tracts are behind compared to the last census in 2010. This points to the need for continued outreach. Board members discussed targeted outreach, like at Alameda Day Center, when it opens.
- Homeless Action Plan – Board Member Wright and staff member Bagtas provided updates on services and activities surrounding homeless issues including: Dine and Connect transitioning to outdoor take-out and delivering food at the encampments. Dine and Connect is exploring the possibility of providing food to Day Center clients when it opens and to residents at the Project Roomkey site at Marina Village Inn. Funds available through St. Vincent/Saint Barnabas have been helpful in covering back rent, utilities, emergency motels, and other needs. The Village of Love has been doing a lot of outreach to promote the Day Center and Safe Parking. The

Village of Love has also conducted two de-escalation trainings and is facilitating support groups with unhoused clients. Christ Church is still planning on building two showers onsite for unhoused neighbors. WABA has requested portable restrooms to be installed on Webster Street. Staff member Bagtas reported that HEAP funding is supporting most of the services for Alameda's unhoused, which expires on March 31, 2021. Continued funding is needed to sustain the programs once the HEAP program ends.

- Youth Mental Health - Board member Paillet-Growl shared that the group's focus is on social and racial justice. This is a difficult time for youth, teens, and the whole family, and they all need support.
- Domestic Violence Task Force – Board member Furuichi Fong provided updates, including hotel vouchers for victims, the possible increase in reports when the shelter-in-place orders are lifted, year-to-date comparisons of monthly domestic violence reports, and future schedule for DVTF meetings.

6. STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

6a. Homelessness Updates and Initiatives

- Staff member Bagtas provided updates, including the scheduled opening of the Day Center and Safe Parking, where meals, mobile showers, and laundry services will be provided. She informed the Board that outreach, registration, and intake for both programs have begun, and Board members are invited to tour before the facilities open. Bagtas notified the board that Sunsetting Homelessness Parking Meters will be installed soon, the 511 Homelessness Hotline will start next month.
- Bagtas updated the Board on the FEMA Trailers. This is a collaborative effort that involves many organizations. The Village of Love is providing coordination services.
- Bagtas notified the board that Debbie Potter, Director of Community Development Department for the City of Alameda, will be retiring in October 2020.

7. BOARD COMMUNICATIONS, NON-AGENDA

- President Chilcott notified the Board of the Economic Recovery Task Force.

8. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

None.

9. ADJOURNMENT

President Chilcott adjourned the meeting at 8:54pm.