

City of Alameda, California
SOCIAL SERVICE HUMAN RELATIONS BOARD
THURSDAY, June 24, 2021
DRAFT MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Christine Chilcott called the meeting to order at approximately 7:02pm.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: President Christine Chilcott, Vice-President Sarah Lewis, Board members Kristin Furuichi Fong, Tony Lewis, Dianne Yamashiro-Omi, and Samantha Green.

Absent: Priya Jagannathan.

City staff: Lois Butler, Amanda Gehrke, and Eric Fonstein (Secretary to the Board)

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3-A 2021-1050 Review and Approve Draft May 27, 2021 Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of May 27, 2021 was made by Vice-President S. Lewis and seconded by Board member Furuichi Fong. Ayes: Christine Chilcott, Vice-President S. Lewis, Board members Furuichi Fong and T. Lewis. Nays: none. Note: Board members Yamashiro-Omi and Green abstained, as they were not present at the meeting. The vote was 3-0.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

5. AGENDA ITEMS

5-A 2021-1051 Homelessness Strategic Plan Status Report

Staff member Amanda Gehrke provided a status report on the Homelessness Strategic Plan (HSP), including an overview of the Strategic Plan process to brief the new SSHRB members. Ms. Gehrke expects to present the draft Strategic Plan to SSHRB at the August 26, 2021 meeting, and then to City Council in September, 2021. Ms. Gehrke and Staff member Lois Butler answered clarifying questions. President Chilcott informed members of the five locations where the Dine and Connect program continue to provide meals and outreach with the homeless and at-risk.

5-B 2021-1052 Discuss “Alamedans Together Against Hate”, or a Similarly Titled Item

President Chilcott provided a brief background on the initiative to reinstate “Alamedans Together Against Hate” or a similarly titled workgroup, and requested input from Board members about the title as well as the development of a work plan. Staff member Butler

reiterated the recommendation that SSHRB support this work by having a recurring item on their regular meeting agendas, and staff member Eric Fonstein requested input from the Board how they would like to share findings and recommendations to City Council.

Board members discussed. Board member Yamashiro-Omi shared information on the national, anti-racism organization, "Race Forward," that has a component called Government Alliance for Racial Equity, which works with governmental departments, does trainings on implicit and explicit biases, and institutional racism, and how to dismantle inequities. She stated that the timing is right for Alameda, and acknowledges Alameda's need to help city workers with implicit biases. Vice President S. Lewis supported the format of a recurring agenda item, allowing all Board members to participate in this critical work. Board member Green recommended developing and presenting a work plan to City Council, to facilitate communication, and ensure prioritization is in alignment with City Council. Board member Yamashiro-Omi asked about the possibility of a consultant assisting with this work, and staff members offered to research existing funding. Mr. Fonstein added that staff will present work plan structure at the next meeting, which will help to identify next steps and timeline.

5-C 2021-1053 Workgroup Reports

- Homeless Action Plan Workgroup (S. Lewis): Updates presented in item 5-A.
- Youth Mental Health (Chilcott): No updates to report, due to quarterly meetings.
- Domestic Violence (Furuichi Fong) No updates to report, due to quarterly meetings.

6. STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

6-A Homelessness Updates and Initiatives

Ms. Butler provided the following updates:

- Feed Alameda – The program continues serve 105 meals on Wednesdays, and the final Feed Alameda meal is expected to be served August 11, 2021.
- Transitional Housing Program – Staff will be asking the City Council for direction at its July 20 meeting, either on a community cabins approach or a hotel-based alternative.
- Encampments – the Main Street encampment currently has 14-18 trailers, and the City is working to relocate residents and clean up the area. Additionally, the Posey Tube encampment continues to be monitored, encouraging unhoused to be relocated, and the Veterans Memorial Building encampment was recently disassembled and cleaned up.
- Homeless Housing Assistance Program (HHAP) Funding – the County is running HHAP, and staff will provide further updates at following SSHRB meeting.

Board members asked clarifying questions regarding transitional housing and homelessness support programs. Ms. Butler shared that there is an identified need for housing for homeless single adults and couples, and that the City Council is looking into mental health support service options in addition to the outreach services that are currently being offered by the City's outreach team. Although the Point-in-Time count was not conducted in 2020 due to the pandemic, some HIPAA-protected demographic and mental health needs data (that is not available to the public) is available in HMIS (Homeless Management Information System) data and an updated Point-in-Time count will be done in January 2022.

6-B Status of City Hall Re-opening – Mr. Fonstein briefed SSHRB that City Hall will be open to the public starting July 6, 2021, and City Council and other boards and commissions are expected to resume in-person meetings in September.

7. BOARD COMMUNICATIONS, NON-AGENDA

President Chilcott welcomed new Board members Green and Yamashiro-Omi.

President Chilcott shared that it has been an honor and privilege to serve on the board. Vice President S. Lewis thanked President Chilcott for her leadership and direction, and expressed that President Chilcott will be missed.

8. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

None.

9. ADJOURNMENT

President Chilcott adjourned the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Eric Fonstein, Board Secretary