

October 6, 2022
Homelessness Subcommittee Meeting

THE HOMELESSNESS SUBCOMMITTEE met in a meeting at the Bell Building Second Floor Conference Room at 215 D Street. Councilor Tousley called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m.

Meetings are recorded live. To view the full video, go to <https://livestream.com/lewiston/events/7428184/videos/233114130>

I. CALL TO ORDER

PRESENT: Councilor Tousley; Councilor Schroeder; Brianne Drury; Kari Ravencroft; Katie Hollingshead; Councilor Forsmann (3:15 p.m.)

II. CITIZEN COMMENTS

None.

III. APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 22, 2022 MINUTES – Action Item

Councilor Schroeder moved to approve the September 22, 2022, minutes. Councilor Tousley provided a second and the motion carried.

IV. APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 29, 2022 MINUTES – Action Item

It was moved and seconded by Councilors Schroeder and Tousley to approve the minutes of the September 29, 2022, meeting. The motion carried.

V. CONTINUED DISCUSSION REGARDING HOMELESSNESS

A. PRESENTATION BY MICHELLE KING ON POTENTIAL LOCATIONS AND CRITERIA

Michelle King thanked City staff for sending out letters to numerous property owners questioning their interest in potentially serving as a homeless shelter. She said she is very grateful to those people who expressed interest. Ms. King noted that it was very difficult to locate a property that aligned with the criteria set out by the Planning and Zoning Commission subcommittee for a low barrier shelter. The criteria consist of: 5,000 to 8,000 square feet, parking, bike racks, transit, fencing, sprinklers, alarm system, indoor welcome area, ADA accessible, toilets, not co-located with recovery or mental health services, lighting, storage, a single point of entry, emergency exist, cement sidewalks, proximity to neighbors and schools, not within the BID District, a buffer zone, and within walking distance of services.

Ms. King shared a pivot table in which she entered all of the information. The group spent a great deal of time adding and deleting various criteria to see which properties could possibly

work, but in the end, she noted that none meet all of the criteria other than 1332 G Street, which was previously denied by the City Council.

Councilor Forsmann said she believes that there may be some criteria that is not necessary at this time. Councilor Tousley agreed, noting that a paved and striped parking lot seems excessive.

Discussion continued and centered around transit requirements, individuals with disabilities, available services, sidewalks, and ADA regulations. Ms. King noted that she would share the spreadsheet and pivot table with the group.

B. UPDATE ON FORMER ST. STAN'S SCHOOL GYM

Councilor Schroeder said she contacted Sister Pat and Taylor Rudd regarding utilizing the old St. Stanislaus gym for a shelter. Fire Department staff stated they could review the site and provide a list of items needed for a modified use. To begin with, the fire alarms would need to be reactivated, the fire suppression hood cleaned and serviced, and the boiler "brought back to life". Mr. Rudd indicated he would follow through with scheduling a site inspection. Councilor Schroeder noted that Mr. Rudd had expressed some hesitancy and concern as the activities currently taking place in the gym would have to be rerouted, and other storage areas determined. He has submitted a list of questions he would like for the Homelessness Subcommittee to respond to. Councilor Tousley said he and somebody from outside of the group would work on providing answers.

Councilor Tousley reported that he had received some information about portable manufactured homes that could be utilized; however, they are only about 2,000 square feet each. Further, property would need to be identified on which they could be located. Mr. Tousley also indicated that after speaking to a staff member from the City of Clarkston, even if the process was streamlined, it could take until March for anything to be established in Clarkston.

Mary Hasenoehrl asked if the same criteria for homeless shelters pertains to warming shelters. Michelle King replied that City Code outlines specific criteria for homeless shelters but has no criteria for warming shelters.

Councilor Schroeder asked Molly Pollastrini if her group would take over facilitation if a building was available. Ms. Pollastrini replied that she would love to, but because there is no longer any money available and because the grant cycles have passed, they would be unable to work a warming shelter. Councilor Schroeder questioned why this group is working on this project and Councilor Tousley explained it is the mission of this subcommittee to find a suitable location.

The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, October 20, 2022, at 3:00 p.m. in the Bell Building.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Lewiston Homelessness Subcommittee, the meeting was adjourned at 4:20 p.m.