



**MEETING OF THE CITY OF LA MESA
CITIZEN TASK FORCE ON HOMELESSNESS
5:00 PM, CITY MANAGER'S CONFERENCE ROOM
8130 ALLISON AVENUE, LA MESA, CA 91942**

MINUTES
January 15, 2020

1. CALL TO ORDER (5:04 p.m.)
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mike Williams introduced himself to the task force and stated that the little league fields in the city are in need of cleanup and asked the task force where information might be on services available to clean them up.

Brenda Hammond introduced herself to the task force and stated that she was homeless and in attendance to hear what the task force was working on.

Rosa Alcaraz introduced herself to the task force and handed out a flyer to explain the East County Resource Website.

Karen Pearlman introduced herself to the task force and stated that she was in attendance to learn more about what the task force was doing and that she will be writing a series of stories on homelessness outreach efforts in East County.

4. ROLL CALL (X indicates present)

Wayne Anderson	X
Bonnie Baranoff	X
Joanne Cattani	X
Jack Major	X
Mary Kate Miller	X
Stephanie Murphy	X

Others present: Greg Humora, Interim City Manager; Captain Matt Nicholass, La Mesa Police Department; Lyn Dedmon, Senior Management Analyst

Public: Mike Williams, resident; Brenda Hammond, resident, Rosa Alcaraz, community advocate; Karen Pearlman, Union Tribune

5. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Action: Motioned by Wayne Anderson and seconded by Joanne Cattani to approve the minutes from the December 18th meeting.

Vote: 6-0

Yes: Wayne Anderson, Bonnie Baranoff, Joanne Cattani, Jack Major, Mary Kate Miller, Stephanie Murphy
No: None
Abstained: None
Absent: None

Motion passed.

6. BRIEFING ON HOMELESSNESS FROM THE ALVARADO PARKWAY INSTITUTE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SYSTEM

Greg Humora asked if the task force wanted to reschedule API for a 3rd attempt at giving their presentation.

The task force discussed whether to reschedule API for their presentation and ultimately decided to reschedule it to the February 19th meeting.

Bonnie Baranoff updated Karen Pearlman on all of the presentations shared with the task force since July.

Bonnie Baranoff stated that she would like to invite Migell Acosta from the San Diego County Library.

7. DISCUSSION ON THE PROCESS FOR PREPARING RECOMMENDATIONS

Greg Humora introduced the item and stated that the task force's goal is to reach its mission to provide recommendations to the City Council. Greg gave a brief background on the city's efforts to address homelessness to date.

Stephanie Murphy asked if La Mesa can find funding to staff a position or to provide resources.

Greg Humora stated that no recommendation is off the table in regard to finding funding and that the use of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds is a possibility to fund La Mesa's homelessness efforts.

Karen Pearlman stated that Santee does use CDBG funds for homeless programs.

Wayne Anderson stated that La Mesa needs boots on the ground and referred to Carlsbad's recent efforts to address homelessness.

Bonnie Baranoff stated that it might be a good idea to find out what our neighboring cities are doing and how the task force can adopt similar programs or tweak them to meet La Mesa's needs. Bonnie also mentioned the importance of "collective impact" and the need for all of the players to get on the same page.

Wayne Anderson stated that it is important that the task force develop a timeline to be effective.

The task force discussed the successes of "The Zephyr Project", "Blue Water", and "Stella" that are dedicated homeless housing projects.

Karen Pearlman asked if there's any way to meet with Scott Sherman and his group from of The Zephyr Project.

Wayne Anderson stated that he can look into it and get back with the task force.

Greg Humora stated that we need to know what we are going to ask of the La Mesa City Council and clarify what our asks will be of other groups/organizations. He also emphasized including recommendations on where resources will come from and how much is needed.

Stephanie Murphy asked if La Mesa has a social media expert on staff that can post on homelessness efforts.

Karen Pearlman stated that she is trying to write more stories on homeless persons and who they are.

The task force decided to come back to the February 19th meeting with specifics on recommendations, a timeline, and who the asks are to and what specifically the task for is recommending.

8. STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS

Greg Humora stated that the city is conducting a Town Hall Meeting at Maryland Avenue Elementary School on January 23rd from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm.

Bonnie Baranoff announced that the Point In Time count is happening January 22nd from 4:00 am to 8:00 am starting at the La Mesa First United Methodist Church.

Bonnie Baranoff mentioned the El Cajon City Council meeting and the presentation by El Cajon City Manager Graham Mitchell on El Cajon's homelessness outreach efforts.

9. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 19, 2020.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Prepared by:

Lyn Dedmon, Senior Management Analyst