

MINUTES OF MARCH 30, 2021

MID-WILLAMETTE VALLEY HOMELESS ALLIANCE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND ORS 190 ENTITY LEADERSHIP

Videoconference Via Zoom

MEMBERS PRESENT

CHAIR: Mayor Cathy Clark, City of Keizer
VICE CHAIR: Council President Chris Hoy, City of Salem
Commissioner Lyle Mordhorst, Polk County
Commissioner Colm Willis, Marion County
Rhonda Wolf, CEO, United Way of the Mid-Willamette Valley

MEMBERS ABSENT

Leilani Slama, Vice President, Community Engagement, Salem Health

OTHERS PRESENT

Jan Calvin, MWVHA Consultant
Janet Carlson, MWVHA Consultant
Carla Munns, MWVHA Consultant
Denise VanDyke Admin. Specialist II, MWVCOG

CALL TO ORDER & INTRODUCTIONS

Mayor Clark called the meeting to order at 12:01 p.m. The presence of a quorum was noted. Attendance was noted.

MINUTES OF MARCH 2, 2021

MOTION: By Commissioner Mordhorst, **SECONDED** by Councilor Hoy, to **APPROVE THE MINUTES OF MARCH 2, 2021, AS PRESENTED.**

Motion carried.

IN FAVOR: Clark, Hoy, Mordhorst, Wolf. **OPPOSED:** None. **ABSTAINED:** None.

APRIL AGENDA

Ms. Carlson reviewed the agenda items. The two boards will convene jointly for introductions and updates and consent agenda. The meeting will then be recessed to go into the Budget Committee meeting. Once finished, the joint board will re-convene for a presentation by the Willamette University MBA team.

The Budget Committee agenda is included in the packet. Ms. Carlson was designated by the board as the ORS 190 Entity Budget Officer last month. She has submitted the notice for newspaper publication that lists the time for public testimony at 3:15. She has published the agenda with a "3:15 p.m. or immediately after completion of business ..." start time for the Budget Committee meeting. Budget Committee officers will need to be elected, and she has combined the roles of Vice Chair and Secretary, as Secretary is required by statute, but she is most familiar with a Vice Chair position at Marion County. She noted that a citizen member of the Budget Committee can serve as chair. Ms. Carlson reviewed the Budget Committee agenda. The published newspaper notice indicates that public comment can be provided by phone at the meeting or in writing. She recommends allowing open comments from any

members of the public present at the meeting, as well as testimony submitted prior to the meeting. There will be a separate Budget Committee packet included with the meeting materials. The proposed Budget Committee rules of procedure have been heavily adapted from Marion County's rules. In the proposed procedural rules, a quorum is set at 9 out of 16 members to keep it simple. The budget hearing will be held at the May joint board meeting.

MOTION: By Councilor Hoy, **SECONDED** by Commissioner Mordhorst, to **APPROVE THE AGENDA FOR APRIL 8, 2021, AS PRESENTED.**

Motion carried.

IN FAVOR: Clark, Hoy, Mordhorst, Wolf. **OPPOSED:** None. **ABSTAINED:** None.

COMMITTEE CHAIR STANDING AGENDA ITEM

Ms. Carlson reported that the Collaborative Committee meeting in April will include a follow up discussion on rural issues and how best to address them. Ms. Munns reported that another group held a meeting on March 25th to talk about rural homelessness in the region. Staff learned about that meeting after the fact but received information from that meeting to share with the Collaborative Committee. Commissioner Mordhorst, who attended the March 25th meeting, offered a summary of the meeting which was convened by Polk County. He stated that there were about 38 people in attendance. The housing shortage was identified as a major problem, and the main needs were described as shelter stability and homelessness prevention in general. Major difficulties included a lack of transportation to connect with services and a lack of shelter or other services for teen boys or families with teen boys. Commissioner Mordhorst added that the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde reported that about one-fourth of their male youth are homeless or at risk, often because of a parent's addiction. More housing is needed, and the Tribe is working on it. Commissioner Mordhorst said that the group will meet again in about a month. He noted that meeting participants expressed reluctance to share information at Collaborative Committee meetings because it seems to be "all about Salem." He asserted that separate smaller meetings could help us earn trust and establish a dialogue. Discussion ensued regarding the need to build trust in relationships and improve communication. Ms. Wolf expressed interest in bringing United Way to the table. This is United Way's service district, and the organization may be able to help.

Mayor Clark stated that she was unable to stay silent during an interview with KGW about the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) refusal to come to the table. She noted that the City of Salem is working hard to help the homeless, but ODOT keeps playing the pandemic card. She is in support of the City of Salem's efforts. She went on television and called ODOT out, but also invited them to the table. Councilor Hoy added that ODOT is helping with trash pickup but refuses to move those who are camped along the on and off I-5 ramps. There is a serious public safety issue, and there have been car versus pedestrian accidents – some fatal. Mayor Clark said that Keizer also has a problem with a camp on Hyacinth where people are using Claggett Creek, a water source, as a bathroom. Commissioner Mordhorst reported that Polk County is having issues at park and ride locations and interchanges, and ODOT won't help relocate people. Councilor Hoy stated that ODOT has a policy to not move homeless camps because of the pandemic. He suggested talking with our state legislators about this. Councilor Hoy said he has done so, and local legislators were unaware of the ODOT policy.

Ms. Carlson added that Ms. Calvin may call on Commissioner Mordhorst for recommendations on how to best frame the Collaborative Committee agenda around the rural issues topic. Commissioner Mordhorst replied that a rural outreach group is forming and asked that we keep the lines of communication open.

OTHER BUSINESS

Commissioner Willis reported that after Commissioner Danielle Bethell held a telephone town hall, she reported receiving complaints about Marion County spending money on homelessness without results.

He wanted this group to be aware because the Homeless Alliance was specifically mentioned. Commissioner Willis said he is trying to get information on who complained so the group can reach out to them. He would like something tangible to demonstrate success. Mayor Clark suggested telling success stories. Ms. Carlson provided some perspective with the following example: If we have 1,500 homeless people, and we build a complex with 36 housing units, there are now 36 households with shelter. However, there are a lot of people who are still homeless, even though you no longer see the ones who were housed. Ms. Calvin will resend to Executive Committee members the “first year accomplishments” document summarizing discussion at the Collaborative Committee. Ms. Carlson said that the PowerPoint presentation that the Executive Committee asked to be presented to board member jurisdictions is just about ready, and when she sends out the invitations, Marion County will be included.

Ms. Carlson encouraged Executive Committee members to submit their conflict of interest and code of conduct forms. Also, she double checked on whether designated board alternates should provide conflict of interest and code of conduct forms. Executive Committee members affirmed alternates should also complete the forms.

ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no further business, Chair Clark adjourned the meeting at 12:48 p.m.

Janet Carlson, MWVHA Consultant