



MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE
Housing, Homeless and Neighborhood Development (HHAND)
Advisory Commission
SUMMARY MEETING MINUTES
February 5, 2020



Call to Order

The Housing, Homeless and Neighborhood Development (HHAND) Advisory Commission was called to order at 4:05 pm at the Anchorage Health Department, 825 L Street Room 423, Anchorage, Alaska. The meeting was staffed by the Anchorage Health Department (AHD), Human Services Division (HSD), Community Safety and Development (CSD).

I. Roll Call

Commissioners Present	Commissioners Absent	Guests
S J Klein, Chair Chelsea Owens, Vice Chair John Kim (Phone) Niki Burrows Giovanna Gambardella <u>AHD, CSD Staff</u> James Boehm, Senior Neighborhood Planner Janet Johnston, Community Systems Program Manager	Noel Rea (U)	Mark Hill Araceli Jones, APD CAP Team

II. Approval of January 15, 2020 HHAND Agenda

<u>MOTION:</u> Commissioner Burrows
<u>SECOND:</u> Commissioner Owens
<u>DISCUSSION:</u> None
<u>VOTE:</u> Unanimous

III. Approval of HHAND December 4, 2019 Minutes

<u>MOTION:</u> Commissioner Owens
<u>SECOND:</u> Commissioner Burrows
<u>DISCUSSION:</u> None
<u>VOTE:</u> Unanimous

IV. Approval of HHAND January 15, 2019 Minutes – No official meeting due to lack of a quorum.

<u>MOTION:</u>
<u>SECOND:</u>
<u>DISCUSSION:</u>
<u>VOTE:</u>

V. Conflict of Interest Declarations & Annual Disclosure of Present Economic Interest

There were no conflicts of interest. Chair Klein mentioned that he has joined the Anchorage Coalition to End Homelessness (ACEH) Homeless Response System Advisory Council. The Commissioners agreed this does not represent a conflict.

VI. Public Comments

MH – Muldoon Community Council member: Police hands are tied. Right now, we have a move on programs. We go, we post. People move and show up somewhere else. We do not know exactly who the campers are. We need to first figure out who the homeless are and what support they need. Clean up is on again, off again. We need to re-organize our approach and go in with resources. Housing is one piece of the solution but there are also other needs.

MH – Nationally some communities are being successful addressing homelessness. Seattle has a fairly success program called LEADS. Ninth circuit has case setting precedent. In most communities, homelessness gets dumped on police, but need other resources. Camps are not being abated right now, so they are out in the open and as solid as possible to get through the winter. It seems that homeless individuals are starting to feel less of a need to hide. For example, setting up a tent under fitness equipment in park.

MH - Bear Tooth Theater showed the movie “Public” to raise awareness. The movie is about an incident where homeless people in Cincinnati took over the public library to seek shelter from the bitter cold. The movie was free to watch.

VII. Old Business

- A. Commissioner Kim will be attending Museum panel on housing and homelessness this Friday to represent the HHAND Commission. He has received general discussion questions that he will share with the Commission. In preparation for this panel, Gambardella has reviewed some zoning criteria related to planning for tiny homes.

VIII. New Business

A. Officer Araceli Jones, APD Community Action Policing (CAP) team

- i. CAP deals with homeless camps, shelters, any other homeless issues, and the public
- ii. Increase in mental health (MH) issues and needles in illegal camps. There are reasons why homeless people might use drugs, like to ease the pain.
- iii. About 10% of campers may have criminal intent, preying on homeless.
- iv. Can't criminalize seeking shelter. Can enforce trespassing violations in parks, but do not have resources to prosecute most of them.
- v. Patrol officers, not CAP, respond to reports of petty crime in neighborhoods around the camps. Patrol officers are reactive, but CAP is proactive.
- vi. Camps may have stolen items, but usually no way to prove tools, bikes, etc. have been stolen.
- vii. Frustrating when people drop “donations” such as mattresses on the side of road, such as near Karluk and 3rd. This is not helpful.
- viii. The HHAND could request number of camps or campers from the Mobile Intervention Team (MIT) that does outreach.
- ix. Recently dealing with more foreclosures. CAP will connect squatters with MIT for needed social services.

- x. Camp abatement. Approach is to post large areas, which may take a long time to clean up. In winter, we do not post camps. MIT, CAP, Parks and Rec work together. Spend most time in better known camps. Muldoon is not getting as much attention because the camps are smaller, less visible. Community Work Service can clean up smaller camps.
- xi. CAP provides referral cards and a bus pass to assist in accessing services from a social worker.
- xii. APD CAP team's job is to abate camps. MIT goes to camps to visit without having to abate.
- xiii. Hard to abate in the winter, but we try to clean up problem camps.
- xiv. Houston model: program to abate camps and get services to campers. Due to lack of sufficient housing, they have a team of officers and social workers that work together to make sure campers are safe.
- xv. Can be hard to find homeless individuals when they finally get to the top of the list for housing.
- xvi. MIT goes to all camps. CAP only goes to a camp when abating, or if requested to provide safety for social workers.
- xvii. CAP is building criteria for abatement: Near schools, calls from citizens, close to housing, close to trails. Decision made based on available resources to take care of population being abated.
- xviii. Commissioner Kim asked what CAP team needs and what messages would they like to get out.
 - a. Such a complicated issue. There are mental health and substance use issues as well as lack of housing.
 - b. Different housing programs have different requirements. Social workers can help direct the homeless to programs they might qualify for.
 - c. Need manpower. CAP is a single 4-person team. In the summer, we need more people. If someone has a warrant and runs, then one team member may need to follow that person, reducing the number of team members who can stay and work on abatement at that moment.
- xix. Some camps are on state property, which adds additional complications.
- xx. Chair Klein – Instead of moving people on, what about allowing people to camp until there is housing available? Camping may be okay, but when it feels unsafe, there is less acceptance from the public. Is there any way to make camping safer?
 - a. Officer Jones – CAP is trying to move people more quickly, which also means they accumulate less stuff. Typically, campers will either go to a shelter or go deeper into the woods.
 - b. Officer Jones clarified that the Out after 30 days rule at Brother Francis Shelter only applies to individuals who are not meeting with a social worker or following other requirements. In winter, they are only turned away for selling drugs or assaulting staff.

- xxi. Few years ago, there were extra police at Brother Francis Shelter/Beans campus. Additional security is now taking over those responsibilities, but training security and other employees is a challenge due to turnover of staff.
- xxii. Commissioner Burrows – Seems to be very little camping around BFS campus currently. Officer Jones noted that the CAP team goes in on Monday and Wednesday with Community Work Service. Campers either move along or move into a shelter.
- xxiii. Only abate if there is a place that the campers can go if they choose to. Social workers visit all camps being abated.
- xxiv. Chair Klein: CAPS team initially had a Fairview focus, but is now covering more of the Municipality. Fairview misses you. Very appreciative of the CAP team effort.
- xxv. Chair Klein: Does HHAND Commission want to take on advocating for CAP team resources as a single issue or part of the bigger report?
- xxvi. Commissioner Owens: Building a project to add resources is a big undertaking. Need proposal and ongoing management. There needs to be a way to pay for housing.
- xxvii. Chair Klein reported that HHAND has endorsed Built for Zero program. ACEH will be reporting back to HHAND in March.
- xxviii. Commissioner Gambardella: CAP intervention is temporary. There is a lack of resources for the longer-term solution. They move people along, some to shelters and some deeper into the woods.
- xxix. Chair Klein: Deeper into the woods makes sense but also means fewer resources and more susceptible to predation.

VIII. Reports

A. Subcommittee Reports

a. Project Subcommittee

- i. Commissioner Gambardella visited the Planning Department to look into:
 - What are the zoning requirements?
 - Where can we put temporary housing?
 - Multi-unit vs single unit requirements.
 - Organizations need to understand difference between zoning/planning vs building codes.
- ii. Title 23 deals with alternate means to meet same end for a building like a tiny home that might not strictly meet code.
- iii. Issue of where tiny homes can be located. PLI zones should be considered. Keep in mind that there is a radius around the PLI zone where the neighborhood is affected by campers on the edges of the PLI zone.
- iv. Chair Klein: If tiny homes are not a problem, should he tell the two organizations looking into tiny home projects that code issues may not be an issue?

- v. Commissioner Gambardella will be meeting with one group to help them understand both Planning for Zoning and Building code. In some ways it should be easier to meet code with smaller buildings. Think of tiny homes as homes so residential code applies.

B. Commissioners Comments

- a. Commissioner Kim will be at Museum panel on Friday. Looking for input on panel questions.
- b. Commissioner Kim: A group from the Project subcommittee will be meeting next Saturday.
- c. Commissioner Burrows – Attended recent housing-related conference in Portland. Portland has more than one successful tiny homes project. Also, shelters in Portland have an automated system to keep track of available spaces and where to send people. Would be great to improve coordination here. ACEH may be working on something similar.
- d. Commissioner Gambardella – Todd Ferry, one of the Portland architects will be on the panel on Friday.
- e. Chair Klein – Emailed memo to Mayor, Assembly members, and others following resolution on tiny homes research in December. CSD will also submit formally.

C. MOA Representative's Report

Draft CAPER will be coming out for public comment next month and there will be a public hearing the week after the HHAD commission. Also, Municipality is working on Substantial amendment #2 to the 2019 Action Plan to add the Housing Trust Fund and maybe reprogram unallocated 2019 funds. The Municipality is hoping to fund a CHDO project. CSD is discussing the use of more RFPs in the future. CSD will present the proposed 2020 Action Plan Projects as soon as they are ready.

IX. Adjourn

Commissioner Burrows moved to adjourn. Commissioner Owens seconded. The meeting adjourned at 5:10 pm by Chair Klein.

Next meeting is Wednesday, March 4, 2020 at the Anchorage Health Department, 825 L Street Room 423 from 4:00 – 5:30 pm.