



MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE
Housing, Homeless and Neighborhood Development (HHAND)
Advisory Commission
SUMMARY MEETING MINUTES
October 7, 2020
Final Approved



Call to Order

The Housing, Homeless and Neighborhood Development (HHAND) Advisory Commission call was initialized at 4:00 p.m. using teleconference line (907) 343-6060. 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 Niki Burrows Noel Rea Giovanna Gambardella <u>AHD, CSD Staff</u> Nicole Lebo, Human Services Division Manager Neighborhood Planner Janet Johnston, Epidemiologist Valerie Madison, Senior Office Associate		Carol, member of the public

II. Approval of October 7, 2020 HHAND Agenda

<u>MOTION:</u> Commissioner Rea
<u>SECOND:</u> Commissioner Owens
<u>DISCUSSION:</u> None
<u>VOTE:</u> Motion carried

III. Approval of September 2, 2020 HHAND Minutes

<u>MOTION:</u> Commissioner Rea
<u>SECOND:</u> Commissioner Owens
<u>DISCUSSION:</u> No business was discussed or passed, as there was no quorum
<u>VOTE:</u> Consensus of members in attendance to keep minutes for the record

IV. Conflict of Interest & Annual Disclosure of Present Economic Interest

None

V. Public Comments

None

VI. Old Business

- A. Commission seat members. Still pending status of candidate application status.
 - a. MOA is in receipt of (5) seat applications that are in the review process.
 - b. Nicole Lebo suggested members continue reaching out to interested persons and encourage the application process.
 - c. Discussion regarding a suggestion in having the Mayor's Office approve at least one or two of the applications to further ensure the Commission is able to reach a quorum.
- B. Chair indicated that he and Commissioner Rea had finalized comments to the 2020 HHAND Commission Report and that it is ready to go to the Assembly.
 - a. **Commissioner Burrows made a Motion to approve the report as amended and prepare to submit it to the Assembly.**
 - i. **Commissioner Owens seconded. No opposition. Motion passed.**
 - ii. **Action item: Chair to prepare final signed copy and prepare for routing.**
- C. Annual Financial Disclosure forms
 - a. **Still pending receipt of those forms from some Commission members.**
- D. AO 2020-66 Resolution and Commission's stance.
 - a. Nicole provided a brief overview on the status of the (4) properties included in the resolution.
 - i. Robin Moore is in the process of due diligence on all (4) properties.
 - ii. ABVI (America's Best Value Inn) property is the closest to purchase completion. Work is in progress to obtain clear estimates and timelines. Current forecast is: Q1 2021 purchased and operational.
 - iii. Nancy Burke is working with other members of the administration to complete the RFP for the service providers to do the permanent supportive and transitional housing that is planned to take place in the building.
 - iv. The (3) remaining buildings in the Resolution are not as far along in the sale process. No further details available to report.
 - b. Discussion regarding the need for more information surrounding the business plans for the properties before the Commission can take a stance regarding the property purchases.

- i. Consensus on the need to have representative attend an upcoming HHAND Commission Meeting to further inform members regarding projects.
- ii. Nicole suggested members review previously presented slides on the projects to avoid duplicating questions that have already been addressed to community council (i.e., purpose of the buildings, cost of those buildings, structure, how many rooms there are and how those buildings are meant to be utilized).
- iii. Chair and Commissioner Rea agreed to prepare questions to outline the specifics about the Commission's immediate inquiries, regarding the business plans.**
- iv. Commissioner Rea inquired about the status of the RFP. Nicole indicated the plan is to have it completed and to the Assembly in November.

VIII. New Business

- E. Northway Mall closure** - Mao Tosi and Nicole Lebo were invited to this meeting to share information regarding knowledge of possible uses for the Northway Mall Facility. Mao was unable to attend. Nicole provided an overview of the MOA's review of the property for use as a shelter.
 - a. Nicole reported that the Administration first reviewed the complex in March of 2020, when doing the initial search for temporary congregate sheltering. Findings were as follows:
 - i. Size - Nearly .5 million square footage on 31/ acres, creating a challenge to efficiently manage the space for the services proposed.
 - ii. Zoning – Area would require re-zoning process to move forward.
 - iii. \$12-15 million in repairs required (including new roofing for entire facility).
 - iv. Approximately one year ago, the Assembly issued a directive that there would not be any further shelters added to the downtown area. Per the district mapping, nearly the entire perimeter of the Northway Mall Facility is surrounded by what is zoned as downtown area.
 - b. Discussion regarding consideration of using that facility and other's (i.e., 9th & L Street Building), for services other than shelters. Perhaps repurposing other buildings in town.
 - c. Chair inquired about Mt. View Community Council's position on the use of the Northway Mall. Action: Niki Burrows to reach out and relay findings on the inquiry.**

- F. Janet Johnston, Epidemiologist for the Municipality of Anchorage** provided an overview of the COVID-19 testing and the recent PEH outbreak. There have been a lot of questions around what type(s) of testing are we doing at the homeless shelters, related supportive housing, and assisted living facilities.

- a. Recent reports are that the recent outbreak rate has come down in the past (10) days. There were only (11) new cases reported in the last week, which is largely due to testing.
- b. When a case is identified in a shelter or a congregate area or assisted living, there are health care staffers onsite doing testing and assisting with medical care.
- c. The CDC recommends testing once a week until there is a full two weeks of no new cases. In the larger shelters, testing is being done multiple times a week to try and get everybody tested at least once a week – then the frequency of testing will move to once a month or once every two weeks.
- d. Regular PCR testing is in use – nasal or throat swabs are sent to the state lab or out of state labs then the results come back to epidemiology – a case is created - at the same time they notify the facilities – move persons with positive tests out of the shelter or isolate – do contact tracing and/or quarantine.
- e. Commissioner Owens asked, “If someone tests positive while staying at a shelter such as Brother Francis Shelter does that compromise their place of housing?” Janet reported that hotels are being utilized for isolation or quarantine. Therefore, if persons staying in congregate shelters test positive, there is support in place to provide them housing support and medical monitoring for the duration of isolation/quarantine.

IX. Reports

G. Subcommittee Reports

- a. Project Subcommittee:
 - i. AK Generation Rehabilitation – Holly and Johnathon Cannon, provided an overview of their business plan and the continued vision for their non-profit agency.
 - 1. Demonstrated an interest to work with James Boehm regarding funding opportunities and guidance with the application processes.

H. Commissioner’s Comments

None

I. MOA Representative Report

None

X. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m. Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 4, 2020 at 4:00 – 5:30 p.m. via teleconference (907) 343-6060.