



**MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE**  
**Housing, Homeless and Neighborhood Development (HHAND)**  
**Advisory Commission**  
**SUMMARY MEETING MINUTES**  
**July 7, 2021**  
**No Quorum**



**Call to Order**

The Housing, Homeless and Neighborhood Development (HHAND) Advisory Commission meeting was initialized at 4:03p.m. using via Microsoft Teams. The meeting was staffed by the Anchorage Health Department (AHD), Human Services Division (HSD), Community Safety and Development (CSD).

**I. Roll Call & Introductions**

Commissioners Present	Commissioners Absent	Guests
<b>SJ Klein, Chair</b> <b>Giovanna Gambardella</b> <b>Wadeen Hepworth</b> <b>Noel Rea</b>  <u><b>AHD, CSD Staff</b></u> Karen Bell, Program Manager Nicole Lebo, Division Manager Valerie Madison, Senior Office Associate	<b>Chelsea Owens, Vice Chair</b> <b>Niki Burrows</b> <b>Josh Louwerse</b>	Dr. John Morris, Homeless Coordinator

Chair opened meeting – No quorum.

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

None.

**V. Purpose Statement**

No discussion.

**VI. Public Comments**

None.

**VII. Old Business**

None.

**VIII. New Business**

**A. Guest speaker John Morris, Mayor Dave Bronson’s Homeless Coordinator**

Chair provided a brief overview of the commission’s intent for meeting with him at this time.

- a. Commission Appointee Vacancies – have made it difficult to obtain a quorum – two seats vacant currently, despite continuous outreach.

Discussion of the resolutions passed by the HHAND commission pertaining to B-3 zoning and licensing processes.

- b. Concerns for adding a concentrated population in an area creating more problems that need to be addressed within that community.
- c. Summarizing that the commission is in favor of both plans, provided that the city would not abrogate its responsibilities for what happens off licensed property and that the larger the facility, the more stringent the licensing process needs to be.
- d. Develop a clear line of communication between the commission and the administration to ensure alignment of goals.

Chair opened the floor to guest speaker. John provided an overview of the administration's plan to address homelessness.

He indicated that all of what he was speaking to had been outlined in his "white-paper" that was posted to the public. He identified some key points identified by the 2020 GAP Analysis conducted by the ACEH and welcomed any questions.

He provided an outline of the overall municipal goal being to have enough capacity to shelter everyone of our unsheltered neighbors. This is different than in the past, as we have relied on private charitable groups to shelter people and that has always been a fraction of what was needed, resulting in deaths and a lot of other problems attributed to shelter space.

Discussion continued regarding the estimated timeline for the project plan, outlining October 1, 2021, as the target open date.

Question: Nicole Lebo inquired about the October 1, 2021, start date mentioned for the new facility at Tudor and Elmore. Specifically, she relayed that some of the healthcare providers working at the arena have a perceived understanding that September 15, 2021, is the shutdown date at the Sullivan. They have relayed concerns regarding that creating a gap period between the shutdown and new facility opening.

Answer: John indicated that the administration has not told them entirely to stand down, so he is unsure of who is communicating to them. He indicated that he is not aware of that having ever been a part of the plan by the outgoing administration or this one. Subsequently, a resolution forward is needed before it can be decided when to quit what we are currently doing.

John identified it as a stated goal to not leave these folks in a lurch. He views the situation as he made a promise to help these people.

Question: Noel Rea asked about getting some type of summary report detailing conclusions in terms of costs and variables related to the houses that were looked at and why the costs became an issue?

Answer: Other than the slides that were presented to the Assembly, "no" he does not have anything in writing but offered to go through the exercise together for discussion.

Discussion regarding Reno model and timelines for the Tudor and Elmore Facility.

Question: Noel asked if this is a permanent structure? Does the timeline factor in the site development?

Answer: It can be a permanent structure. It will have an open area and could be something that stays. Or it could be dismantled and sold to market.

Question: Noel asked what brought you to focus on this and homelessness?

Answer: John explained that he and his wife decided to make this their home and they want to make it a better place. Homelessness seemed to be the biggest problem facing us. Personally, he is heartfelt for the struggle that a lot of those people experience.

He is focused on it at this time, because after an extraordinary year, it seems like the right time to get it done.

Discussion: Commission is interested in knowing where, how and in what ways the commission can support the work that they are trying to do. As a commission, we can make resolutions that get passed on to the departments and to the Assembly. We can also make recommendations to the planning & zoning commission. In addition, we can make recommendations to staff when they are assessing what to do with CDBG, HOME, ESG funds.

John expressed viewing the commission as a:

- a. Uniquely well-suited group to monitor for outcomes of implemented plans
- b. Contribute input on the allocation of funding
- c. Identify other grant opportunities and means to obtain them

**B. Discussion regarding HHAND Commission monthly meetings being held in person or telephonically in the future, following end of the MOA Emergency Order.**

Group consensus was somewhat split on in-person meetings vs. virtual/telephonic.

Karen Bell relayed that based on our citizen participation with HUD, we are to have a public hearing related to the Action Plan that is accessible both by telephone and in-person. That in-person portion was waived while there was an emergency order in place at the municipality. However, since that is no longer in place, we would need to have our Action Plan public hearing meetings separately at an in-person location. We can certainly still have them available for people who choose to participate that way and find that convenient; but cannot keep them 100% virtual.

What that would mean for us is that we would plan to have it at a HHAND Commission Meeting and just make sure that that meeting has an in-person component to it. Or we would hold a meeting separate from the commission. Commission members would be invited and encouraged to attend those meetings if they so choose.

Work has begun on the 2022 Action Plan and suggests that there should be a kick-off meeting sometime in September, and then a follow up meeting in which projects are chosen, ideally in December of this year.

Group consensus to hold the August meeting through Microsoft Teams and discuss further at that time.

**IX. Reports**

**A. Subcommittee Reports**

None.

**B. Commissioner's Comments**

Giovanna Gambardella notified commission members she is unable to attend the August meeting due to planned travel.

**C. MOA Representative Report**

Karen Bell announced that she has resigned from MOA and that her last day is Friday July 9, 2021.

Nicole reported that she and Andrea Nester have screening interviews scheduled for July 8, 2021. There are currently eight candidates.

She further indicated that they have a tentative new hire for James Boehm's old position as Senior Neighborhood Planner and is scheduled to start on July 26, 2021.

Nicole also reminded commission members that they are welcome to submit statements in support of the Action Plans via email or testimony, and that it did not have to be an official document.

**X. Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at 5:17p.m. Next meeting is scheduled for August 4, 2021, at 4:00 – 5:30 p.m. at 825 L Street, Conference Room 423, and through Microsoft Teams.