



**MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE**  
**Housing, Homeless and Neighborhood Development (HHAND)**  
**Advisory Commission**  
**SUMMARY MEETING MINUTES**  
**September 1, 2021**  
**Final Approved**



**Call to Order**

The Housing, Homeless and Neighborhood Development (HHAND) Advisory Commission meeting was initialized by SJ Klein, HHAND Commission Chair at 4:00p.m. 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>Chelsea Owens, Vice Chair</b> <b>Wadeen Hepworth</b> <b>Noel Rea</b> <b>Niki Burrows</b> <b>Giovanna Gambardella</b>  <u><b>AHD, CSD Staff</b></u> Kelly Isham, Community Systems Program Manager Andrea Nester, Principal Administrative Officer Valerie Madison, Senior Office Associate	<b>Josh Louwerse</b>	Ruth Schoenleben, Nine Star Peter Taylor, Habitat for Humanity Anchorage

**II. Approval of September 1, 2021, HHAND Agenda**

<b><u>MOTION:</u></b> Commissioner Noel Rea
<b><u>SECOND:</u></b> Vice Chair Chelsea Owens
<b><u>DISCUSSION:</u></b> None
<b><u>VOTE:</u></b> Motion carried

**III. Approval of August 4, 2021, HHAND Minutes**

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

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

None.

**V. Purpose Statement**

No discussion.

## **VI. Public Comments**

None at that time. Guests shared organizational information later during the meeting.

## **VII. Old Business**

- A. Potential commission appointees, nothing new to report.
- B. Chair is planning to prepare a letter to the Assembly and Administration in support of the proposed Houseless Lived Experience Advisory Board following the commission meeting.
- C. Work-session for the HHAND commission scheduled outside the monthly meetings schedule. Tentative date October 5, 2021.
  - a. Chair provided a brief overview of past work-session meetings the commission held in the past. Deep dive into the tenants of the commission while meeting in a less structured environment.
  - b. Invite the mayor's staff, including the Houseless Coordinator with the intent of gaining knowledge on administrative direction to better align HHAND Commission goals. Also, reach out to the planning department.

## **VIII. New Business**

- D. No new business. Chair opened the floor to guest attendees to share about what is going on with their organizations.
  - a. Ruth Schoenleben, Nine Star, provided an overview of their integrated services including, but not limited to: testing, assessments, and career paths. There are currently nine personnel working to assist people in getting jobs, advancing in jobs. They continue to look for funding, behavioral resiliency such as budget tools and financial literacy. The internet platform has allowed them to extend their services to those who have jobs during the day they can now attend courses online at night.
  - b. Peter Taylor, Habitat for Humanity, stated that in the past they had experienced some frustrations with the delays of access to funding but was happy report that they currently have five families that are "graduating" to buying homes on their own in the Lower-48.
    - i. Kelly Isham relayed plans to improve best practices to reduce issues that have plagued the process in the past. He will extend the placeholder to Larry Stokes, and Jed Drolet for the planned October 5, 2021, work-session, and have them provide an overview of the con plan and present more timely reports future forward.

## **IX. Reports**

### **E. Subcommittee Reports**

None.

### **F. Commissioner's Comments**

Chair commented that living near the Sullivan Arena and having experienced some of the overflow activities in the neighborhood, they personally would like to obtain an actual statement from the Assembly and Administration regarding, the plan for this winter and the expectations for the next six months.

Commissioner Wadeen Hepworth shared that in her neighborhood near the old native hospital land there is a new larger camp that has been developing recently. She also noted that there is

a plan for an orchard nearby that will be a carried out by volunteers. To her knowledge the plan is for September 12, 2021, from 10a.m.-3p.m. She will email commission members and guest attendees details on that event as she receives them.

**G. MOA Representative Reports**

None.

**X. Adjourn – Motion made by Chair**

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

Meeting adjourned at 4:49p.m. The next monthly HHAND Commission meeting is currently scheduled to take place October 6, 2021, from 4:00 – 5:30 p.m. at 825 L Street, Conference Room 423, and through Microsoft Teams.