MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE
Housing, Homeless and Neighborhood Development (HHAND)
Advisory Commission
SUMMARY MEETING MINUTES
June 3, 2020

Anchorage Health Department

Call to Order
The Housing, Homeless and Neighborhood Development (HHAND) Advisory Commission was called to order at 4:11 pm 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** **John Kim** **Niki Burrows** **Noel Rea** **AHD, CSD Staff** Janet Johnston, Community Systems Program Manager Valerie Madison, Senior Office Associate	**Giovanna Gambardella (excused)**	

II. Approval of June 3, 2020 HHAND Agenda

MOTION: Commissioner Klein
SECOND: Commissioner Burrows
DISCUSSION: None
VOTE: Unanimous

III. Approval of HHAND May 6, 2020 Minutes

MOTION: Commissioner Klein
SECOND: Commissioner Burrows
DISCUSSION: None
VOTE: Unanimous

IV. Conflicts of Interest

None

V. Public Comments

There were no Public Comments

VI. Old Business

A. Identifying New Commissioners

i. Discussion regarding identifying and reaching out to individuals that may be interested in serving on the HHAND Commission.

ii. Janet Johnston suggested sending out a letter to each of the community council leaders.

1. Outline the mission and current projects of the committee regarding the housing and homelessness issues.
2. Request that people contact us if they are interested.
3. Niki Burrows suggested sending the letter of correspondence to Mark Butler, Director of the Federation of Community Council for further distribution.
    a. Commission members agreed with that idea.

iii. Discussion regarding; whom the correspondence should come from.

1. Consensus the correspondence should come from the Chair.
    a. Janet agreed to follow up with the Chief of Staff for the Mayor, Jason Bockenstedt, to confirm that this type of request for support falls within the Commission's guidelines.

VII. New Business

B. HHAND Commission Report

i. S J Klein reviewed the draft HHAND Commission Report he had written.

1. Discussion regarding having time for Commissioners to review and provide feedback outside of the meeting.
2. S J will present a final report to the Assembly Task Force on Homelessness near the end of the month.
3. Discussion regarding the Assembly's plans to begin deciding how the alcohol tax monies will be allocated and that it would be beneficial to have a document in place supporting the HHAND Commission's position.
4. John Kim will add his thoughts and comments regarding the report via email following the meeting.
5. Reviewed previous HHAND Commission presentations and discussions in light of the report:
    a. AHD CSD presentation given by James Boehm and Janet Johnston at last month's meeting regarding the Consolidated Plan.
        i. Need to incorporate other plans and the GAP analysis into funding recommendations.

ii. Need for more staffing resources to help organizations apply for and access those funds.

b. Nancy Burke's presentation regarding MOA allocations and GAP Analysis findings.

c. APD' presentation regarding the abatement process and outreach programs including things to improve upon.

6. Janet recommended setting a due date for comments from Commission members with a group consensus.
7. **Comments on draft report are due to S J Klein by June 5, 2020.**

IX. Reports

A. Subcommittee Reports

i. Project Subcommittee:

a. COVID-19 has slowed the progress of projects.

b. John reported on project contacts.

a. Communal Home Project – Rose Hubbard has continued reaching out to share information about the project.

b. AK Generation Services – Holly and Johnathon Cannon provided their business model for a non-profit service company to UAA Graduate Students and received assistance in writing up a business plan.

i. Company is now registered with the State of Alaska.

ii. Company provides lawn maintenance, painting, etc. They are licensed, and bonded.

iii. Business was created to fund the non-profit organization, which is great for sustainability.

iv. Employees are comprised of homeless individuals, persons in rehab, and those coming out of incarceration.

v. John will send out their company website information to the commission members.

ii. Noel Rea reported status regarding Jamar's Baseball Facility.

a. Project planning started pre-COVID-19

b. Project overview ($1 million) to create a baseball/softball facility in the Mountain View area.

c. General design and property have been secured.

d. Major League Baseball Commissioner's Office is considering support for the project.

e. Pre-COVID-19 Rasmussen also showed interest in support for the project.

f. Jamar was encouraged to try and keep momentum for the project by obtaining more political support.

g. Discussion regarding general support for the project, with the understanding that that given the current COVID-19 environment, getting an RFP for such a facility may be difficult. At this time, the CDBG and ESG funding need to be focused elsewhere.

    a. Homelessness and permanent housing options.

    b. Minimize the number of people in congregate shelters.

h. Further discussion took place regarding having the HHAND Commission provide a letter of support recognizing the facility as a good community development project. Group Consensus.

B. Commissioners Comments

a. John requested guidance from the Chair regarding the appropriate process for resigning from his Commission seat.
    i. J S confirmed he had done so by notifying the Commission in writing that he would remain on until the end of June.
    ii. John to follow up with Giovanna Gambardella regarding projects and contact leads prior to his departure.

b. S J inquired about MOA's guidance for community members to address the human waste issues occurring on their private properties.
    i. Janet suggested calling 311 - agreed to research best practices and report back.

C. MOA Representative's Report

a. Substantial Amendments. Janet reported we intend for the Substantial Amendments to go to the Assembly on June 23, 2020.

b. MOA is in the process of ramping down the Ben Boeke as a temporary shelter returning it back to use as a hockey rink.

c. Resource hub in the Sullivan Arena parking lot by CSS for rapid rehousing assistance with a target focus on low acuity homelessness.
    i. Those who have more of an economic issue opposed to those who have mental health or substance abuse issues.
    ii. Persons who do not have a job or the money to get a security deposit.

d. Continue efforts to assist people in attaining more permanent housing thereby reducing the number of persons housed in congregate shelters.
    i. MOA is reviewing property purchase options as a type of bridge housing. (i.e., property or hotel).
    ii. Focus is also on unallocated CDBG money from the 2020 Plan, as well as the CARES money to help support that.

e. Discussion took place around the Sullivan Arena capacity and set up.
    i. It was noted that the MOA COVID-19 response page reflects current capacity numbers and serves as a good resource.

f. Further discussion regarding camp abatement.
    i. MOA cannot force people to go into a congregate shelter.
    ii. Numerous reasons why people are opposed to wanting to do so.
        1. Substance use.
        2. Some wish to remain with a partner.
        3. Safety concerns.

iii. Camp abatement does not necessarily mean shelter use goes up.
iv. Public perception is that there is a facility available that is not being used to capacity.
v. There exists a need for housing options to include a closed-door policy (i.e., responsible use of a substance, or the choice to have a domestic partner).
vi. Real-estate reviews are including consideration that tourism is minimal right now and that there may be some properties on the market that were not previously.
vii. Niki Burrows suggested that the HHAND Commission could provide a report that incorporates that information and relays it to the public. Group consensus.

g. S J inquired about the status for Substantial Amendments for next year's Action Plan.
    i. Janet noted that HUD has made an allowance for next year's Action Plan to be delayed or extended for up to a year.
    ii. Currently awaiting decision regarding how to allocate $650,000 of CDBG project funding.
    iii. May possibly pull it into something related to a hotel purchase or something to the bridge housing plan.
    iv. Or may put out to bid via RFP.
h. While the Emergency Order is in effect, the MOA buildings will not be used for meetings.
i. Next HHAND meeting will be held via teleconference.

X. Adjourn

Commissioner Niki Burrows made a motion to adjourn. Noel seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 4:59pm by Chair Klein.

Next meeting is Wednesday July 1, 2020 by teleconference from 4:00 – 5:30pm.