

# THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU, ALASKA

Meeting Minutes - August 8, 2017

## I. Call to Order

Chair White called the meeting to order at 5 p.m.

Members Present: Maria Gladziszewski, Norton Gregory, Mariya Lovishchuk, JPD Chief Ed Mercer, Kenny Soloman, Bruce Van Dusen, and Debbie White.

Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: Rorie Watt, City Manager; Laurie Sica, Municipal Clerk.

Ms. White welcomed Kenny Soloman to the committee as the Downtown Business Association representative and said the he would be provided with a binder of information upon Mr. Ciambor's return.

## II. Approval of Agenda

Hearing no objection, the agenda was approved.

## III. Approval of Minutes

A. July 24, 2017 Task Force

Hearing no objection, the minutes of the July 24, 2017 meeting were approved as presented.

## IV. Agenda Topics

### A. Information Updates Requested

Mr. Watt reported:

- There are 5 current occupants at the Thane Campground, and there are 13 spaces available.
- The school district does not have any surplus lockers.
- Portable toilets rent for \$180 / month, which includes servicing 1 x a week, and each additional service is \$90.
- A 1.5 yard dumpster rents for \$225 / month, which includes 1 pickup per week.

Mr. Watt said he would like advice from the committee on whether to fund additional services from the committee, and said staff could determine the specifics. Following committee discussion and recommendation, Mr. Watt said he would follow up with KTOO to inquire about CBJ paying for an additional weekly pickup of its dumpster to assist with the burden of illegal dumping by people camping on the subport lands across the street. There was some discussion about KTOO being a lessee of the AMHT. He

would also follow up on placement of a sharps container in the area.

## **B. Mental Health Trust Update**

Mr. Watt said there have been some organizational changes within the Alaska Mental Health Trust regarding staffing and reporting to the Board of Directors. He and Deputy Manager Mila Cosgrove would travel to Anchorage on August 14 to meet with the interim CEO to discuss several issues regarding AMHT lands in Juneau, including the sub-port camping situation, and possible placement of a portable toilet in that area. He did not believe that eviction of campers by AMHT was imminent. He will report back to the committee regarding his discussions with AMHT.

## **C. Permitting / Planning**

Mr. Watt referred to a draft ordinance before the Planning Commission Committee of the Whole regarding inclusion of a new concept, "Essential Public Facilities," into the land use code. This would be a way to address the location of "difficult to place" facilities in the community, such as shelters, the Housing First facility and addiction clinics.

Ms. Gladziszewski said that the difficult part would be to define "essential public facility" and gave the example that Haven House was a private non-profit facility.

Mr. Watt distributed a memo from Greg Chaney, identifying city lands near a bus line that could be potentially used for campground locations. Mr. Watt also spoke about the AJ mining mill site. There was no discussion or action on this topic.

## **D. Data Update - Vulnerability Index Survey**

Ms. Lovishchuk distributed a handout with statistics from the Vulnerability Index survey taken from Mid-April to Mid-May, 2017. 103 people were interviewed. 32 of those people will be moving in to Housing First.

The committee spoke about reaching people who were difficult to help. Mr. VanDusen said that connections must be made at the right place and time and he supported the work of an outreach coordinator that could build trust within the homeless community. Ms. Lovishchuk related an experience in which it took 5 agencies cooperation to house a chronically homeless woman with mental illness. She said this was an example of a "quality" approach, when generally there is only time for a "quantity" response. Ms. Lovishchuk distributed the Juneau Coalition on Housing and Homelessness "Principles and Strategies" document.

Mr. Gregory was concerned the committee was focusing on a short term quick fix when what was needed was a long-term solution. He said Juneau was an expensive community with a high cost of living and the committee needed to educate itself and the community on the issues. He would like to see this committee make a strong recommendation to the Assembly to create a long-term plan to end homelessness.

Mr. Watt noted that the Comprehensive Plan calls for the creation of such a plan, and he asked Ms. Lovishchuk to request that the Coalition return the "Principles and Strategies" document to the committee with costs associated with the strategies.

#### **V. Public Participation on Non-Agenda Items**

Public in attendance included Cynthia Dau, Zeke Smyth and Bruce Denton.

Mr. Smyth said that he has ten acres of property on Douglas Island near the bridge, on the bus line, above the tank farm and that he is a developer available to assist the community in creating housing, including housing for homeless persons. He is clearing land now and has built housing in the lower 48. He said he could build at a cost of less than \$110 / square foot, and was interested in purchasing additional property in the area. He said he had funds and financing and could build adequate shelter within 9 months to address the needs of the homeless. Mr. Watt took his phone number to set up a future meeting.

#### **VI. Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

Submitted by Laurie Sica, Municipal Clerk