

NOTES: MEETING 1 9/10/21

Homeless Think Tank Seaside

Participants: Joe Ballard, Jay Barber, Rick Bowers, Dave Ham, Sharon Johnson, Masudur Khan, Dale McDowell, Seamus McVey, Viviana Matthews, Nelle Moffatt, Tita Montero, Ariel Nelson, Bruce Rosebock, Monica Steele.

AGENDA

Tita

- § Greet and welcome participants
- § Intro to process: 5 meetings; scheduled to present recommendations to council at Oct 25th council meeting;
- § introduce facilitator
- § Ask each person to introduce themselves by name, role in community that brings them to participate in the thinktank

Nelle

- § group norms
- § Brainstorming:
 - define
 - all participants share what they think are the needs of:
 - o City staff
 - o Housed residents
 - Unhoused residents

NEEDS INPUT

Public Works

- Public works needs to understand requirements of unsheltered – limited resources.
- Public works needs understanding and community awareness of what helps and what adds to the responsibilities carried by Public Works.
- Public Works needs sufficient funding and staffing to address issues that arise from homelessness.
- Public Works needs direction from City Council and City Manager on its role and function related to issues that arise from homelessness.
- Need for housed folks to understand limitations of city staff to work with homeless. Laws are changing and tricky to navigate (camping, shelters, etc.). Patience

Police Department

- Needs city ordinance update regarding -Right to rest -Where to allow/not allow –Consequences (Fines don't help.)
- Needs updated policies in alignment with ordinance.
- Needs clarity regarding moving back & forth and when to restart clock (72hr)?
- Needs consistent, clear messaging / communication with public to/from city.
- Needs legal places for people who are homeless to be -shelter for homeless -affordable housing -RV camping ... where?

Social Services (CCA)

- Need mental health support / coordination
- Budget to support expenses of county liaisons
- Need coordination with Police Departments

Businesses

- Need to present a clean and safe appearance of city (regarding trash, pan handling, presence of people who are homeless in business areas)
- Need ability to communicate with unsheltered
- Need affordable housing for current employees and to attract talented staff
- Need for effective strategies to remove abandoned vehicles in parking lot
- Need for easy to find information on resources in the community (e.g. how to get into Helping Hands, support structures, housing ...).
- Need for people who know about resources to share knowledge. How do we help?
- Need more resources in community; local support, resources, and services in Seaside (instead of bus tickets to Astoria).

Housed Citizens

- Need for privacy, safety, respect
- Need for taxes being well spent and appreciated
- Need to retain property values
- Need respect for cleanliness, order, beauty and pride in our city
- Need NOT to be judged and the need to judge
- Respectful of everyone's (property owners') space
- Safety in forested areas.
- Need understanding, education about the unhoused population and the many causes of homelessness
- Need personal contact opportunities to develop empathy and relate to individuals
- Need education about the diversity of the unsheltered population (visible and invisible unsheltered population (e.g. couch surfing, rv's), unsheltered vs. transients)
- Need educational opportunities to understand each other and to see from multiple perspectives; "See each other for the people we are."
- Need for respect (in each direction)
- Need education on the causes of homelessness (systemic issues).

County

- Needs more resources
- Needs information for how to best work with the cities to provide resources (e.g. land)
- Needs to coordinate planning & zoning with cities

Unhoused

- Need for respect, safety, nurture, healthcare, hope, survival
- Need for a consistent mailing address

- Need basic resources (i.e. money, place to charge phone, dry place to sleep, toilet, showers, trash containers)
- Need a safe, dry place to store their possessions so they don't have to carry them around all day
- Need a wash and dry their clothes, blankets, etc.
- Need access to helpful information (i.e., how to find housing if it exists (accurate & up-to-date information, accurate referrals, one-stop places to apply).
- Need for mental health support
- Need for community
- Need for accurate information on affordable housing NOHA wait-list for vouchers
- Need more availability of affordable housing at multiple levels (half-way recovery, ¾ transitional, subsidized, group housing, workforce housing, pets allowed, children allowed)
- Need for education on basic life skills (i.e., budgeting, interviewing, communication, conflict resolution, healthcare)
- Need for employment opportunities
- Need to be clean and dry for interviews

Service Providers, Local Governments

- Need support for finding and applying for grant money federal, state, and private
- Need support to keep resource information accurate and up to date
- Need for integration of information and services within Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) constraints