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Public Safety Board
June 20, 2024 (3:00 PM) – City Council Chambers
Meeting Minutes

In Attendance

Members: Councilor & Chair Amanda Grady Sexton, Drew Biemer, Councilor Jim Schlosser, Councilor Jennifer Kretovic, Councilor Nathan Fennessy, Steve Edwards, Bouzned (Moe) Djabelarbi, Don Carter, Lisa Brown

Staff: Fire Chief Chisholm, Deputy Fire Chief Folsom, Deputy Fire Chief Hebert, Serina Chase, Police Chief Osgood, Deputy Police Chief Thomas, Deputy Police Chief Moulton, Deputy Police Chief Smagula, Nicole Petrin

Minute Taker: Serina Chase

Welcome from the Chair

The meeting was called to order at 3:00pm by Councilor & Chair Amanda Grady Sexton

Introductions

Introductions were made by attending councilors, members, and guests.

Approval of May 16, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Motion made by Councilor Kretovic to approve the May 16, 2024 meeting minutes. Councilor Schlosser seconded. Motion Passed unanimously.

Presentation by Councilor Schlosser and Roseanne Haggerty from the Committee for Concord's Plan to End Homelessness

Roseanne Haggerty from the Committee for Concord's Plan to End Homelessness was unable to attend the meeting.

Councilor Schlosser instead reported on the June 18th meeting held by the Steering Committee for Concord's Plan to End Homelessness. This meeting included a presentation from Larry Morrissey, former Mayor of Rockford, IL who explained how the City of Rockford achieved functional zero



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homelessness for Veterans and the chronically homeless. This presentation was also recorded by Concord TV and can be made available upon request.

Councilor Kretovic asked if the Committee felt a sense of direction after viewing this presentation. Councilor Schlosser said that the Committee identified five priority action areas and picked two of these areas to focus on for reducing homelessness – Reducing the number of homeless Veterans and reducing the rate of unsheltered homelessness.

Don Carter said: It sounds like some group in Rockford took the lead on developing a plan to achieve functional zero. Do you have any thoughts on who might be able to take the lead on this in Concord? Councilor Schlosser replied that he doesn't have the answer to that yet.

Councilor Fennessy asked if there were any limitations or restrictions for external groups to take the lead on this. Councilor Schlosser replied that maintaining a confidentiality guarantee is crucial for taking the lead on this role.

Moe Djabelarbi asked if Concord Human Services stores data related to homeless individuals. Councilor Schlosser clarified that the Human Services Department works to prevent homelessness by assisting community members who are at risk of being evicted, or are behind in utilities/rent, etc. Therefore, they do not necessarily track data pertinent to developing a plan to achieve functional zero.

A question was asked whether or not Community Solutions was involved in the response by the City of Rockford, and if there was a cost associated with their involvement. Councilor Schlosser mentioned that the organization was involved but he is unsure if there was a cost associated.

Councilor Grady Sexton asked if there is any merit to inviting Roseanne Haggerty to discuss any other issues relative to the PSAB.

Councilor Grady Sexton also asked if there has been any discussion regarding informational sharing about the code of conduct. For instance, if the Friendly Kitchen has determined that someone is exhibiting unacceptable behavior, is that information shared with other service providers so that there is consistency across the board. Councilor Schlosser replied that he is not sure. Nicole Petrin, CPD Social Worker, replied that this information is shared when appropriate.

Councilor Grady Sexton asked if there has also been any discussion regarding incentivizing the usage of waste receptacles within homeless encampments. Councilor Schlosser said that he is not aware of any official incentivizing programs but mentioned that it may be possible to partner with some individuals residing at these encampments to do so.

Councilor Grady Sexton continued that the possible next step for the PSAB could be to make a recommendation to Council to direct this issue to City staff or to explore options for incentivizing the usage of waste receptacles within homeless encampments. Councilor Fennessy agreed that making this recommendation could be good idea. He continued that starting small is very important and suggested that making waste bags available in these encampments could be a good starting point.



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Councilor Grady Sexton proposed that making sharps receptacles available might be helpful as well. Chief Chisholm explained that there is a cost associated with the disposal of hazardous material and sharps. The Fire Department does not provide this disposal service due to the high costs associated. Instead, the Fire Department utilizes Concord Hospital for this disposal.

Councilor Schlosser suggested that the PSAB may want to explore this idea further and consult with other organizations, committees, or City Services before making any formal recommendations to City Council.

Councilor Grady Sexton suggested inviting Adam Clark, Administration Division Manager of General Services, to the next PSAB meeting to explore this topic further.

Councilor Schlosser suggested that either he or Nicole Petrin could also reach out to General Services to inquire about what outreach workers could do to assist the Department with waste collection in encampments. The outreach workers may even be able to design a safe pilot test program.

Councilor Fennessy will also reach out to Andrew Hosmer, Mayor of Laconia, to inquire about Laconia's process for waste disposal in encampments.

Andrew Biemer will reach out to the Kirk Beattie, City Manager of Laconia, to also inquire about Laconia's process for waste disposal in encampments.

Presentation by Nicole Petrin, the Concord Police Department's social worker

Ms. Petrin gave an overview of her position within CPD, how it relates to the surrounding community and community members, and how her role relates to unhoused individuals within the City of Concord.

Drew Biemer asked if Ms. Petrin has had any interaction with the Merrimack County Navigator Program, during her time with the CPD. He also asked for a brief overview of the program and whether or not she suggests inviting Nikole Keaton, Human Services Assistant Director of MCNP, to a future meeting to provide presentation about the program. Ms. Petrin explained that MCNP is essentially a case management service for community members in Merrimack County who need assistance working through social service systems. She refers community members to this program when she does not have the capacity to provide assistance herself.

Moe Djabelarbi asked if community members must contact Ms. Petrin first to get involved with MCNP. Ms. Petrin explained that the program typically only accepts referrals directly from police contact.

Steve Edwards asked how Ms. Petrin's role has impacted the Police Department. Chief Osgood explained that Ms. Petrin's presence has had a tremendously positive impact on the Department, as a whole and provided several examples.



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Chief Chisholm commented that he would like to explore if information sharing between CPD and the Fire Department could be possible, specifically in relation to the individuals that Ms. Petrin is working with. However, he acknowledged that HIPPA regulations and laws may not make that possible.

Councilor Kretovic suggested speaking with Mayor Champlin to create a summary report to update City Council and the community of the work and accomplishments that Ms. Petrin has achieved since her employment began at CPD.

Update from the Subcommittee on Homelessness

No update from the Subcommittee on Homelessness due to cancelled June meeting.

Future Agenda Planning

- No PSAB meeting scheduled for July or August
- Councilor Grady Sexton will reach out to Adam Clark, Administration Division Manager of General Services, to join the next PSAB meeting to discuss the possibility of waste collection within encampments.
- Councilor Schlosser and Nicole Petrin will reach out to outreach workers to inquire if they can assist General Services with waste collection within encampments.
- Councilor Fennessy will reach out to Andrew Hosmer, Mayor of Laconia, to inquire about Laconia's process for waste disposal in encampments.
- Andrew Biemer will reach out to the Kirk Beattie, City Manager of Laconia, to also inquire about Laconia's process for waste disposal in encampments.
- Councilor Kretovic will reach out to Mayor Champlin and work with Nicole Petrin to create a summary report of the work and accomplishments of Ms. Pertrin for the community and City Council
- Update from the Subcommittee on Homelessness
- Review Coalition to End Homelessness strategic plan

Adjournment

Councilor Kertovic made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilor Schlosser seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 4:30.