



Human Services Commission

Meeting Summary

Monday, March 11, 2019, 6:30 – 8:30 pm

Members Present: Anny Smith, Shawn Roland, Jacob Brown, Dana Carlisle, Josh McQueen, Arjun Ram

Staff: Brooke Buckingham, Alaric Bien

Guest: Mark Ellerbrook

Public Comment:

- Steve Wisham from Overlake Christian Church shared that they are looking into the feasibility of putting a tiny house village on back lot, exploring permitting, financial considerations. They are working with the Low Income Housing Institute and looking for other community partners such as scouts, rotary club, other churches.
- Marc Paine wonders if community can be engaged in human services work through financial donations to the city.

January 14 Meeting Summary: approved

Regional Affordable Task Force

Mark Ellerbrook presented and answered questions on the work of the task force and next steps.

Updates from Commissioners

- Arjun reported on his experience of racial discrimination in housing search. Commission recommends promotion of fair housing laws within the city.
- Jacob attended the joint commission meeting on financial aid programs. One thing that stood out was the time cost of transportation was much more a barrier than the actual monetary cost.
- Dana reported on her group's sanitary kit donations to The Sophia Way and LifeWire.
- Josh met with other churches who work with individuals experiencing homelessness and Redmond's homeless outreach program administrator on more effective approaches to providing financial and other assistance.
- Anny has been working on the Feminist Community Archive documenting nonprofit work with Women's Housing Equality and Enhancement League. She has also been accepted into the Masters of Social Work program at the University of Washington.

Updates from Staff

- On 2/19, staff reported back to Council on plans for the additional one time funding.

- The Sophia Way's Executive Director has stepped down with internal staff filling in for the time being. Friends of Youth Executive Director also left and is replaced by Paul Llwali.
- Eastside cities are considering additional funding to help shelters with the additional costs incurred during the snowstorm.
- Two new commissioners recruitment to be appointed 3/19: Vibhas Chandorkar and Kristen Muscott.
- Staff visited and learned about new affordable housing development on Redmond Ridge with 3, 4, & 5 bedroom apartments: www.redmondridgewa.com

OneRedmond Proposal (added to agenda)

Shawn shared proposal to Council waiving some permitting requirements to promote more workforce housing in Redmond (80-120% AMI). No analysis by the City side yet. Shawn encourages other commissioners to either review the report at <https://bit.ly/2u2gkFV>.

2018 Program Outputs and Outcomes

Reviewed program performance in terms of service provided. This in addition to program outcomes will be presented to Council's Parks and Human Services Committee in April. In general, agencies are overperforming. Homeless services appear to fall short because the City funds capacity, rather than actual services provided to Redmond residents. Will share outcomes report with commission at a later date.

Potential Community Events

Discussed possible events to engage with the community and expected outcomes. Desire to increase visibility about things happening in Redmond (issues that exist, services that are available, encourage participation), as well as visibility of the commission to encourage future commission applications. Possibility of participating in city wide events (Derby Days, So Bazaar, Redmond Lights) and encourage small grass roots group or student projects with possibility of funding. Would like Homeless Outreach Program Administrator's view on ideas for community engagement. Another idea to create a video as part of a community campaign to educate community on what are human services are, what the commission does, and how to get involved.