

REDMOND COMMUNITY HOMELESSNESS TASK FORCE
MEETING 4 SUMMARY - JULY 8, 2015

Task Force Members in Attendance:

Meghan Altimore, Pam Mauk, Steve Daschle, Gary Smith, Andrew Koeppen, Carolyn Mansfield, Chris Falco, Lara Bolger, Marian LaBeck, Andrea Liggett, Derek Wentorf, Tasha Witherspoon, Tim Short

Staff in Attendance:

Chief Ron Gibson, Jane Christenson, Colleen Kelly, Brooke Buckingham, Karen Reed-Facilitator

Guests: Terry Pottmeyer

Welcome, Introductions, Review of Agenda

Karen Reed welcomed the group and reviewed the agenda.

Approval of Meeting 3 Summary

Meeting summary approved.

Response to Task Force Questions from Meeting 3 (5 min.) In response to a question about demographics of The Landing, a handout was shared showing prior residency of individuals served at The Landing in the first six months of 2015.

Discussion: Problem Statement – Review and Offer Edits (25 min.) Karen presented the draft problem statement, which has been reviewed by the staff team and steering committee. It is intended to provide background and context for the Task Force recommendations. It includes issues/conditions of greatest concern, concerns arising from these issues/conditions, obstacles to addressing concerns. Group reviewed to provide general feedback:

- Emphasize that Redmond is not the only one feeling this impact – “while we feel these impacts in Redmond, so do other cities in King County.”
- Need cooperation of many communities on Eastside (might be a recommendation) – “it will take the work of all.”
- Add Parks and trail areas first bullet of second section
- Problem behaviors (not just street behaviors)
- Third section—add statement about Redmond becoming less safe, businesses experiencing more aggressive behaviors from individuals, additional labor costs for businesses in response to safety concerns
- 4th section – lack of places for homeless individuals to store belongings, system for young adults (not youth)

Karen will make the edits and bring a “redline” to the next meeting; Task Force members can offer additional edits then and will be asked to approve the document.

Roadmap for Meetings 4-6 (10 min.)

Karen provided summary of next steps for the last 3 meetings, including criteria for making recommendations, implementation details related to these recommendations, voting/ballot process, consensus, ideas for how to “roll out” to the larger community – see handout for details.

Question – how is the problem statement driving our action? Not necessarily direct connection. Problem statement is summary of what we are seeing here. Recommended solutions should be responsive to the problem statement.

Question - Experience with getting 80%? Yes, expect there will be some ideas that will get 60-80%.

Question - As we develop recommendations, do we need to address all subpopulations (tent city, youth, etc.)? Recommendation should be focused if appropriate to specific population, but there may be ideas that apply to all.

Question - What about ideas that have huge cost impact? Should there be parameters/criteria for this? Needs to be important enough for task force to stand behind. Not all solutions necessarily have a cost (volunteers)

Criteria for recommendations/action items

Actionable, financially willing sponsors, consistent with federal law, short-term or near term timeline (within 5 years)

Concerns/suggestions to above:

- Might be willing sponsors, but whether if it financially feasible? Possibly add later screen regarding financial feasibility. First bullet add possible/feasible to implement...
- Add positive community impact related to issues identified in problem statement

Action item framework

Review of categories for ideas: Improving public safety, reducing crime; expand/improve services to homeless/sheltered individuals; expand, improve, mitigate impacts of shelter and housing options; improve public understanding, advocacy; other. Who would be the lead (city, business, etc.)?

Members put their recommendations on “post-its” and placed on framework - see handout with compiled suggestions. Discussed solutions -- grouped similar ideas; identified gap areas such as resident action items and more prevention-focused recommendations. Observation that most of action items fall under City and Non-profit provider columns.

Review of draft “ballot” & Homework Exercise

Karen and staff will compile results and share with Task Force. Opportunity to add ideas and/or confirm that ideas are accurate as presented. Discussion of how like ideas might have different funding/implementation (expand services and provide transportation or open new day center in Redmond)

Trying to address problem, but what does success look like in Redmond, this may result in different solutions. What are we trying to accomplish? Will have a discussion at the next meeting about “what success looks like” for addition to the problem statement.

Discussion regarding concern that by adding services the City will attract people with challenging problems, as opposed to people who want to change their lives. Noted Mayor’s office is hearing this concern.

Conversation about signs discouraging panhandling versus a more comprehensive community campaign that may or may not include signs: will review signs at next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.