

Executive Board Meeting
November 2, 2023

Meeting attended by: Allen Kemplen, Karen Gonne-Harrel , James Thornton, Kelly Ittenbach, Sharon Chamard. Meeting began 8:35.

Allen: Attended Clean Slate Strategy meeting today: talking about another walk-in shelter for 150 folks. Identified a number of different housing types to meet different population types they serve. Recognizing that homeless folks are multi-faceted individuals. More meetings scheduled; coalition trying to quantify types of homeless people. Get sense that the advocates have difficult time breaking out our troublesome individuals. Of different population types, how many are problematic? If there is a menu of housing choices, where do the problem folks go? Don't address this type of individual so they can't separate them out. Still have to evolve to understand about these problematic individuals that create probs for neighborhoods. We need to stay on top of this.

I will be sending out a resolution on a call to action. Council presidents for north Anchorage have come up with a document for board executives to sign. Tasked with writing the resolution to share with a cover letter. Resolution will be finished tomorrow...ask for approval for what is said in document.

Contacted by lady who volunteered over summer at different shelters. She felt compelled to write about her experiences. Zeroed in on the "good neighbor agreement" as a tool. Interviewed me. She felt that the agreement was a panacea. Allen: Brother Francis shelter wanted to increase capacity. Contacted their neighbor who should remain at the same capacity, and it did. Good neighbor agreement only works for on-site. Advocating for hybrid approach. Public safety and neighborhood teams as guardians.

Sharon: Guardians should be younger folks who want to be police people, but not yet police ready, but be learning about how to deal with street people.

Merrill Field meeting: Rich fired: he was opposed to approaches being presented. Kolby Hickel went around Rich and they blamed Rich? Meeting next week still on. FAA to have people there. Kolby and pilots will be there. Runway 7/25 will be closed all summer 2025. Want to be on work group.

James: Congregate shelter on Clean Slate meeting: any word on any new shelters coming online?

Allen: unknown.

Allen: Coalition doing good job, not sure housing first is working. Homelessness meeting Nov. 7 at 5:30-6:30. Two resolutions to introduce. Will send out notice. Last month I introduced resolution regarding IFR procedures. Will send out to folks tomorrow. Should it be on the agenda for Thursday or not? Perhaps should wait until after next Thursday meet to get better feel for what impacts will be.

Taylor with parks department regarding the Fairview Rec Center hours and operations: formal issue was brought up. They hired staff, and have committed to provide staff for when we meet. Volunteered to be on our agenda to give update on Rec center and parks. Good time to ask about operational status of security system, Wi-Fi, and new bleachers.

Sharon: What about Taylor and the lack of approval for community garden?

Karen: Kent Kohlhase at today's Merrill Field meeting...he will move it to municipal manager.

Allen: brought up fact to Kent regarding the DOT agreement. All we want is a signature! Should be able to convince him to sign.

Karen: Just want fence up on 14th this year.

James: Would like to give comment for proposed police sub station adjacent to Carrs, instead of at 1st National Bank, and remind them to support our neighborhood and food security.

Allen: would caution more cautious approach. Look forward to foot patrols from substation instead of midtown location. More regional stops.

Sharon: It doesn't matter where the substation is, they still have to respond, and midtown has a lot of issues also. Substation is where they take a break.

Karen: want substation at Carrs, so at least there will be cops around. Responding to what's happening.

Meeting over 9:10 pm