

**Basher Community Council Meeting
Via Zoom Audio-Video Conference
March 31, 2022, 6:30 PM**

MINUTES

The following people attended the meeting:

1. President Don Crafts
2. Treasurer Hilary Morgan
3. Diane Schenker (taking minutes due to absence of Secretary Margaret Nelson)
4. Susan Kent-Crafts
5. Robin Dublin
6. Carlton Roberts
7. Jo Ann Schnellbaecher
8. Ted Trueblood
9. Jack Walker
10. Robert Larsen
11. Debbie Clark
12. Steve Clark
13. Ed Mjolsnes
14. Jeff Allen
15. Jim Wojciehowski
16. Joyce Wojciehowski
17. Kathy Privatsky
18. Ken Privatsky
19. Neverly Wake
20. Frank Wake
21. RW Kulberg
22. Kristine Kulbert
23. Duby Baxter
24. Loran Baxter
25. Robert Bundtzen
26. Bob Groeneweg
27. Dodi Merchant
28. Rob Merchant
29. Ann Gabler
30. Chad Hufford
31. Robin Harter
32. Matt Moore
33. Assembly Member Forrest Dunbar
34. Assembly Member Jamie Allard
35. Assembly Member John Weddleton
36. Mayor's Office: Terrance Shanigan

37. Mayor's Office: Joe Gerace

The meeting was called to order by President Don Crafts.

Resolution 2022-2, Basher Community Council Homeless Shelter Resolution

There was discussion of who was eligible to vote, and that our bylaws limit it to only those who have attended another community council meeting in the twelve months prior to this meeting. President Crafts confirmed that this is the rule in the bylaws, which also prohibit mail voting, and explained that we will continue to vote and afterwards determine if there are any votes which cannot be legally counted per the bylaws. There was discussion of how we would determine if someone had met the "prior attendance" criteria. Mr. Crafts will consult with Secretary Margaret Nelson about getting the required information from previous meetings.

Hilary Morgan moved to adopt the resolution. Robin Dublin seconded. Don Crafts read it, and discussion began.

Assembly member Allard denied saying the words attributed to her in the resolution and asked that her name be removed from the resolution.

Hilary Morgan moved to remove the reference to Ms. Allard. Don Crafts seconded. No one was opposed, so the motion passed. Don said he would remove the language from the final version of the resolution to be sent to the Assembly, if approved.

Diane Schenker called for the question. No one seconded. Robin Harter asked for more background information. Joe Gerace from the Municipal Health Department stated that there was no sole source contract with the Hickel company and explained the oversight process, involving a working group consisting of three members of the Assembly and three from the Mayor's administration. Mr. Gerace stated that following an RFP the "partner" will create a rough drawing of a site plan and placement of a building to meet the needs of 200 people. He said the Assembly has approved \$800,000 for the initial phase, to result in blueprints. He said there is currently no final building design, but expects about a 29,000 square foot building.

Assembly member Dunbar said the Assembly has passed a budget of \$6 million for an overall homelessness plan, but that funds have not been approved yet for this building. He stated he does not support it and does not intend to vote for additional funding for it unless it is "radically downsized".

Jim Wojciehowski brought up the issue of overall cost, asking if this might run \$35-40 million. Assembly member Weddleton replied that the contractor claims it can be done for \$9 million.

There was lengthy discussion of the pros and cons of placing the homeless navigation center near the old APD building near Tudor and Elmore. Much of the discussion involved fire risk. Proponents of the navigation center pointed out that there is already a risk of fire from people

camping in the woods below Stuckagain. Opponents pointed out that we have no hydrants and no way out of the neighborhood if the one and only road is blocked by a fast-moving fire. Several people relayed discussions they'd had with the fire department personnel at the bottom of the hill, Jeff Allen stating that he was told by a fireman there that they "really don't care" where the navigation center is located. Diane asked if anyone from the municipality had data on the number of fires near the Sullivan arena or other homeless shelters before and after they became homeless shelters, reporting anecdotal stories from friends who live near Sullivan claiming fires have worsened there. No one had any such data. Mr. Shanigan said he would ask for it. There was discussion of whether we should wait to vote on the resolution until we have fire data and other information, or whether to support the resolution now because one point of the resolution is opposition due to the failure of the municipality to address these issues with our neighborhood and affected parties before starting this project.

Discussion continued, addressing concerns about size, the possibility that although planned for 200, it will end up being many more based on past performance at other shelters, and the lack of curfew or any ability to require people to use the shelter versus camping around it. Assembly member Weddleton said there are mechanisms to allow enforcement of "no camping" rules in the woods around the center. Joe Gerace added that due to a court ruling, in order to abate illegal camps, the municipality has to have a place to house people, making the point that the navigation center could result in preventing some of the fires caused by the illegal camps that need to be abated. He agreed with Mr. Dunbar that the navigation center at this particular location is not a "done deal" yet.

There was discussion about neighbors not having been aware that the project was already underway, and a question as to whether it was already too late for opposition to matter. Assembly member Dunbar replied that this is not a "done deal" and it is not too late for residents to be heard.

After further discussion, Diane Schenker again called for the question. Robin Harter again asked that we delay action, wanting more information first. Discussion ensued as to whether to wait for more information and better understanding of the issues, or whether tabling the resolution would mean losing our chance to voice opposition before it is too late.

There was discussion of which motion was on the floor, the motion to table or the motion to call the question, and it was agreed that the motion to table, by Robin Harter, had been seconded, so the following vote was taken on the question of should we table voting on the resolution:

The motion failed with 8 in favor and 15 opposed, or possible 7 in favor and 14 opposed based on two voters who reported that they had not attended a prior community council meeting within the past 12 months:

Voting in favor of tabling the vote on the resolution:

1. Ed Mjolsnes
2. Loran Baxter
3. Duby Baxter
4. Jim Wojciehowski
5. Joyce Wojciehowski
6. Jack Ward
7. Ted Trueblood
8. Chad Hufford

Voting against tabling the resolution:

1. Diane Schenker
2. Robin Dublin
3. Debbie Clark
4. Steve Clark
5. Hilary Morgan
6. Ken Privatsky
7. Kathy Privatsky
8. RW Kulberg
9. Kristine Kulberg
10. Ann Gabler
11. Don Crafts
12. Susan Kent-Crafts
13. Carlton Roberts
14. Neverly Wake
15. Frank Wake

Diane Schenker moved to vote on the resolution. Hilary seconded. The motion passed 15 in favor, 7 opposed.

Voting in favor of the resolution:

1. Diane Schenker
2. Robin Dublin
3. Debbie Clark
4. Steve Clark
5. Hilary Morgan
6. Ken Privatsky
7. Kathy Privatsky
8. RW Kulberg
9. Kristine Kulberg
10. Ann Gabler
11. Don Crafts
12. Susan Kent-Crafts

13. Carlton Roberts* (reports that he has not attended prior meeting in past 12 months)
14. Neverly Wake
15. Frank Wake

Voting against the resolution:

1. Ed Mjolsnes
2. Loran Baxter
3. Duby Baxter
4. Jim Wojciehowski
5. Joyce Wojciehowski
6. Jack Ward
7. Ted Trueblood

There was additional discussion about by-law requirements for voting involving the mail-in votes and the votes from those who haven't met the "prior meeting" criteria. President Crafts said he consulted with past President Dirk Sisson and his wife, Barb Hood, who worked on drafting the bylaws, to get an understanding of the requirements, and that the votes would be tallied in compliance with the current bylaws.

President Crafts responded to a question about voting for officers, stating that it was not on the agenda for this meeting.

In response to a comment in the "chat" forum on the video-conferencing application questioning the way votes were counted, Diane Schenker read each vote aloud and asked afterwards if anyone's vote had been omitted or incorrectly counted, with no one objecting to the accuracy of the count of votes.

The meeting adjourned.