



MEETING SUMMARY

Project: MOA Sanctioned Camp Task Force

Project No: 235049

Meeting Date: June 8, 2023

Location: Mayors Conference Room

Attendees: Tony J Andrew, Community Member
Michael Hughes, Anchorage Health Department
Silvia Villamides, Alaska Hospitality Retailers, Downtown CC
Caroline Storm, Great Alaska Schools, Community Member
Dave Kuiper, Community Member
Eric Glatt, Community Member
Kris Stoehner, Community Member
Dylan Faber, Community Member
Charles Welch, Community Member
Felix Rivera, Assembly Member
David Rittenberg, Catholic Social Services
Jean Miller, Showered in Grace First United Methodist Church
Andy Bartel, First and St. John United Methodist Church
Amy Solberg, Muni Staff
Susan Soule, Community Member
Sharon Chamard, UAA Justice Center – Safety Security Group
Jay Rendon, AKBRA
Duke Russell, Community Member
Susan Williams, Community Member
Betsy Baker, Community Member
Roberto Hockema, ACEH
Shenee Williams, Community Member
Randy Sulte, Anchorage Assembly

Attachments: A Meeting Agenda
B Meeting Presentation
C Sign-In Sheet

The purpose of the meeting is to review the work and recommendations provided by the Safety and Security workgroup and allow for discussion from the larger audience prior finalizing their recommendations. The following items were discussed:

1. INTRODUCTIONS

Participants in the room and online to introduce themselves.

2. SAFETY AND SECURITY RECOMMENDATIONS PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION


Dylan Faber, Safety and Security Taskforce Leader, presented the work completed by the taskforce with a focus on a holistic view to address all community concerns while minimizing impacts to both campers and community members.

- Working Group Participants
 - Dylan Faber, Matson – Working Group Leader
 - Cathleen McLaughlin, Restorative Reentry Services
 - Sharon Chamard, UAA Justice Center
 - Tony (TJ) Andrew, Community Member with 10 years of security officer experience
 - Kris Stoechner, Community Member
 - Pastor Andy Bartel, First and St John United Methodist Church
- Initial Recommendations for Discussion
 - Must be appropriately and legally zoned areas of town with the goal of minimizing impact on campers and neighbors to the campsite
 - Does this apply to sanctioned camping due to resolution passed to waive Title requirements?
 - Response (Felix) – There are three different actions the Assembly are looking at:
 1. zoning will be waived here at these specific sites
 2. An ordinance by Johnson, Martinez and Cross, that lays out zones where sanctioned camping is allowed,
 3. Zolotell and Cross have put forth an ordinance to eliminate most zoning all together
 - Task Force should be less focused on the zoning requirements, but more focused on if there is going to be a sanctioned camp site these recommendations should be met for that area.
 - Temporary 8' perimeter fencing with fire-code compliant designated points of entry and exit
 - Tony Andrew – unsure about budget for fencing, hoping for input from Felix and appropriations in budget for this
 - David Rittenberg – clarify to single point of entry to monitor and collect data on who is coming into the camps so we know who the individuals are. If someone is identified as a bad actor, they can be flagged when they enter. Also need to consider “Visitor Policy” – how many people are allowed per campsite so not over capacity.
 - With Single point of entry, need to have emergency exits for those to quickly leave in event of emergency, and how do you prevent people from entering the emergency exits (could use lock box with keys – as done at churches)
 - MidTown Community Council is in an uproar due to what happened Tuesday night, but believes that this can be a win-win situation if it's done methodically

and we think of the two audiences (homeless and community). We cannot forget the community. Brought forth an idea for clear area with nothing around the sanctioned camps within a ¼ mile radius. However, there still needs to be good fencing for security of both those in and outside of the camp.

- Shenee is opposed, she would not go into a fenced area – to reminiscent of a prison. If it is fenced, does it have to be 8 feet?
 - Response – needs a fence to demarcated otherwise they are camping wherever they see fit.
 - Shenee - If people don't come because of the fence, then they will continue to camp wherever they see fit.
- Don't believe the fencing is to keep people in, it's to keep them safe from other people wanting to come in. But when it comes to fencing, is there funding and how do we help the Muni clear the brush
- Randy – this is for security, but also privacy, everyone seemed to really like having a privacy screen. Create a welcoming environment with aesthetic fence
- Kris – goes to Cuddy everyday and knows the people who are there. Today witnessed 5 non-campers rummaging in people's campsites, a fence will help protect the people. Additionally, knows people who would volunteer and finance, need to work together to put it together.
- Robert – thinks conversation needs to be pointed inward, does this create safety for people experiencing homelessness. Fencing is not supported by research, instead of spending money for things that happen for security. Safety is a feeling and psychological (not mental-health)
- Motion to vote for this to be supported due to conversation and contention
 - 11 support having a perimeter fence randy
 - 4 oppose having a perimeter fence
- No camping within a ¼ mile radius of sanctioned camps
- Staffed check-in process that includes signature on a release of liability form before campers are assigned a lot
 - Appropriate place to gather universal data collection (demographic)
 - Another legal review needs to be conducted on how much data can be collected due to personal privacy.
- Operations and unarmed security staff at every campsite with regular patrols to check for security and safety concerns.
 - Understand no firearms, but what about tasers / pepper spray / animals for their own (securities) protection
 - Is there a way to incorporate members of the sheltered community to be part of the operations and security team? A self-governance approach.
 - Roger has the most knowledge about this, and self-governance, but is not here today. Believes this is also about the operations / maintenance concern, and there will be a lot of crossover.
- Unarmed security staff conducting active, 24-hour patrols for camps and surrounding neighborhoods in a three-block radius for any camps in zoned residential area

- David Rittenberg – define explicit security number of security, want to ensure no one is ever working alone, but depends on total number of campers.
- Michael - Clarifying question asked about 24-patrol in surrounding neighborhoods, how far into the radius and what would they be doing?
 - Response – call and report to Anchorage PD within a 3-block radius – just like a neighborhood patrol
- Is there any grant money left for this type of patrol?
 - Response – unsure of availability, will explore.
- Felt this is similar to another bullet point, private citizens and contractors don't have right to clear private property. Support the notion of patrol and visibility, but it may not work the way it is hoped.
 - Response – Intent is abate people from camping in other areas, it's to find people who may need assistance and flag situations quicker
 - Recommend specific language being added that this is not to abate camps, but to flag and respond to any safety concerns
- Concern that this is pointed to general neighborhood safety, or is it designed for keeping an eye on the unsheltered
 - Response – perception that crime increases around camps, at this time there is no data that supports the campers are increasing crime.
 - Presentation given last year at Centennial Campgroup that studied boundary areas that lead to significant increase in crime which was being conducted by 1-2 bad actors at the camp.
 - Adds to the perception of safety for the people who are camping there. Reference of past experience at a shelter where non-campers were taking advantage of the vulnerable.
- Randy comments online, not to focus on this bullet point but instead to focus on (omitted due to inability to decipher recording)
- Any building used within a sanctioned camp or to support one must be building and fire code compliant for their designated purpose
 - An Assembly Ordinance is being developed for safety in sanctioned camping, with the Task Force recommendations being included.
 - Task force has been through in several meetings with pallet shelters and code compliance.
 - Randy comments online this should be waived
- Limit on number of campers per site and per lot within a campsite with at least 10' buffers between lots
- Assigned camping lots within the camp and clear signage of lot number
- Campsites should be organized and numbered/ordered by row or pod and clearly marked/labeled
- A raised platform should be at each lot for pitching a tent
- Spaces reserved near staff for disabled and vulnerable populations
- Communication plan and infrastructure for campers and neighbors to report problems

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- Signage of established camp rules posted around the site and given to and reviewed with campers when checking in to confirm understanding and compliance with camp rules
 - Consider a prohibit or declaration process of weapons at check-in
 - Clarifying question over knives, would this be included?
 - Susan – would define explicitly what a weapon entails (knives over a certain size) and can there be a check-in process at the gate.
 - Walking downtown, witnessed on 4th Avenue, two people had a knife and it was dangerous. Who will be there at the camps to control any types of fights at the camp? There are people patrolling, but what would they actually be able to do?
 - Response – cognizant of previous comments that knives are in peoples house for cooking,
 - Last year at Centennial, this happened and all the campers grouped together to take out offending person. Again, there is a certain level of self-governance, if there is food there is order. Also have to be aware of camp site layout and who is next to who.
 - Need to be decide if this is a government run camp versus allowable camp. In an allowable camp, we are not going to be abated, we will offer you services. Reference dignity village that is a contracted camp in Portland is run by a 501c3, not a government run camp.
 - There is still time to modify all the recommendations prior to final report, can recommend that the assembly needs to define what is a weapon
 - Would remove the word prohibit as in America people are allowed to carry a gun regardless of their housing.
 - May need to be reviewed by legal
 - First responders and other service providers must be accompanied by security when visiting the site
 - Brush and low tree limbs below 6’ should be trimmed to maintain maximum visibility across the campsite
 - Tony Andrew – willing to help clear brush at camp sites, and would suggest community volunteer to assist parks and recreation on this task
 - Wildlife deterrents on site (air horn, bear spray)
 - Dogs must always be leashed
 - Lockers for personal storage of items
 - Designated camps and areas within camps for vulnerable populations (i.e. women, elderly, disabled)
 - Include Transitioned Aged Youth, (18-25) consider including this group
 - Also allow people to self-select into this area.
 - No alcohol consumption on site
 - Tony Andrew – strong proponent of dry camps to assist in overall and women’s safety, unsure if there is a way to screen for those who are non-drinkers/users
 - Shenee Williams - Need to change to no public drinking, and treat those at camps the same as we would treat all citizens. Additionally, for every rule that

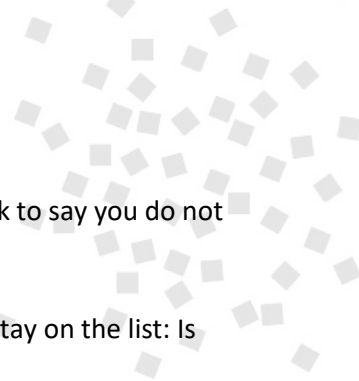
is made, it will need to be maintained – so understanding that there is no reason to make a rule if it cannot be upheld.

- Motion to remove this recommendation – vote passes, striking from the recommendations.
- Robert – understanding that as the task force trying to develop a program, not just a space for people to camp, but also help people move forward. This program may not have 4 walls and a roof, but may have structure. However, eliminating alcohol while allowing weapons poses some risk.
 - Support for the group to pick one, weapons or alcohol
- First aid kits on site with Narcan as part of every kit
- Fires only allowed in designated firepits that the city will provide
 - Where are these individuals getting firewood?
 - Response – not within the scope of taskforce to accommodate firewood
- Fire suppression devices on site and consideration of prohibition on propane or sanctioned use

3. GENERAL COMMENTS

These comments were made towards the beginning of the meeting before a strict time management system was instilled to ensure all bullet points were reviewed for the sake of time.

- Understanding of intersection between additional committees, and at end of recommendations they will be collaborated and condensed. For today, recommendation is to just keep tabs and general notes to be included in final report.
- Silvia - If recommendations are supported, and goes to RFP process, it will be up to purchasing to determine correct organizations to uphold these recommendations
 - Response (Felix) - the RFP process is lengthy in nature, and most of this work are future focused for possible camps in 2024 and beyond.
- Duke Russell – frustrated with getting a voice in this process. Understands that people needing these services, struggle with being told what to do and will not attend these camps due to the optics of the control measures putting into place. At 3rd and Gamble yesterday, had friends beaten up badly and need medical attention and still hiding between containers. Believes all these measures may not guarantee success, because if you don't have the will of everyone it won't work. Doesn't feel this task force is not meeting the people where they are at.
 - Response – These recommendations are for the safety of everyone, and process was inclusive of all recommendations – nothing was left out
- Different legal standards between camps, private and public, those who are allowed in versus not allowed. If this is the Muni run, the Muni is then assuming liability of all the contractors utilized to maintain these recommendations. Question is when does this go to a legal review to be vetted if these are even achievable for Muni to uphold.
- MidTown Community Council is in an uproar due to what happened Tuesday night, but believes that this can be a win-win situation if it's done methodically and we think of the two audiences (homeless and community). We cannot forget the community. Brought forth an idea for clear area with nothing around the sanctioned camps within a ¼ mile radius. However, there needs to be good fencing for security of both those in and outside of the camp.

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- Appreciate and understand there is a lot of emotion to the discussion, ok to say you do not agree.
 - All the suggestions revolve around control, the scarcity and neglect
 - This could be a good filter / lens to understand what should stay on the list: Is this a control or a safety concern?
 - Counterargument that a controlled environment is a safe environment
 - i. Felt this is not a good point, understand why these items are listed
 - There are multiple teams working on similar topics, and need to understand that this is one piece of the puzzle, there needs to be staff relationships, food services, welcoming that encourages people to come to.
 - Susan – new to process, speaking as a resident and what she saw last summer at Centennial. This list looks like we are putting these people in a prison. She felt that there was a large pride last year at Centennial, it was their home, they took care of their space. As someone new to the process it feels like there is an “us and them.”
 - Feeding people help stops explosive behaviors, if people have food to eat, you don’t need additional measures.
 - There is a rough operating budget of 26K per month for 2 security guards, need to include in operations sub-group.

4. REMAINING MEETING PROCESS

Small groups have been meeting and they will continue to work together to finalize the recommendations following the below schedule.

1. June 15th (1:00 – 2:30): Support Services Recommendations
 - a. A small sub-group, and needs help with where does service providers begin with intake. Would like more information on current programs for reference.
2. June 22nd (10:30 – 12:00): Planning and Design, Site and Location Recommendations Presentation
3. June 29th (1:00-2:30): Operations and Management Recommendations Presentation
4. July 5th (2:30-3:30): Final Recommendation Report Review
5. July 6th (Final Recommendation Report Due to Assembly

The information contained herein represents our understanding of items discussed and decisions made at this meeting. We will assume this summary is correct unless notice to the contrary is brought to our attention within seven (7) days of the date of this summary.

SALT

Prepared by: Michael Fredericks

cc: all attendees



Sanctioned Camp Community Taskforce
Agenda

June 8, 2023
2:00pm – 3:30 pm
632 W 6th Avenue, 8th Floor
Mayors Conference Room

TASKFORCE ROLES

Assembly Lead: Assembly Member Felix Rivera

- Taskforce Member Communications

Co-Conveners: Silvia Villamides and Caroline Storm

- Meeting Hosts/Chair
- Agenda Development

Tech and Access: Amy Solberg (amy.solberg@anchorageak.gov)

- Meeting Technology
- Legislative Assistance

Facilitator: Michael Fredericks

- Agenda Development
- Meeting Facilitation
- Recommendation Report Development

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. MEETING EXPECTATIONS

- a. Respect each other and our time together
- b. Silence your telephones, respect the presenter/speaker
- c. Limiting comments/responses/thoughts to 2 minutes

3. INTRODUCTIONS

4. SAFETY AND SECURITY RECOMMENDATIONS PRESENTATION & DISCUSSION

5. REMAINING MEETING PROCESS

- a. June 15: Support Services Recommendations Presentation
- b. June 22: Planning and Design Recommendations Presentation
- c. June 29: Operations and Management Recommendations Presentations

8. ADJOURNMENT

Sanctioned Camp Community Taskforce

June 8, 2023

Agenda

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. MEETING EXPECTATIONS
3. INTRODUCTIONS
4. SAFETY AND SECURITY RECOMMENDATION REVIEW
5. REMAINING MEETING PROCESS
6. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting Expectation

- ▶ Respect each other and our time together
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Safety & Security Recommendations

Working Group Participants

- Dylan Faber, Matson – Working Group Leader
- Cathleen McLaughlin, Restorative Reentry Services
- Sharon Chamard, UAA Justice Center
- Tony (TJ) Andrew, Community Member
- Kris Stoechner, Community Member
- Pastor Andy Bartel, First and St. John United Methodist Church

Safety & Security Recommendations

Initial Recommendations for Discussion

1. Must be in appropriately and legally zoned areas of town with the goal of minimizing impact on campers and neighbors to the campsite
2. Temporary 8' perimeter fencing with fire-code compliant designated points of entry and exit
3. No camping within $\frac{1}{4}$ mile radius of sanctioned camps
4. Staffed check in process that includes signature on a release of liability form before campers are assigned a lot.
5. Operations and unarmed security staff at every campsite with regular patrols to check for safety and security concerns

Safety & Security Recommendations cont.

Initial Recommendations for Discussion

6. Unarmed security staff conducting active, 24-hour patrols for camps and surrounding neighborhoods in a three-block radius for any camps in zoned residential areas.
7. Any building used within a sanctioned camp or to support one must be building and fire code compliant for their designated purpose
8. Limit on number of campers per site and per lot within a campsite with at least 10' buffers between lots.
9. Assigned camping lots within the camp and clear signage of lot number.
10. Campsites should be organized and numbered/ordered by row or pod and clearly marked/labeled
11. A raised platform should be at each lot for pitching a tent

Safety & Security Recommendations cont.

Initial Recommendations for Discussion

12. Spaces reserved near staff for disabled and vulnerable populations
13. Communication plan and infrastructure for campers and neighbors to report problems
14. Signage of established camp rules posted around the site and given to and reviewed with campers when checking in to confirm understanding and compliance with camps rules
15. Consider a prohibition or declaration process of weapons at check in
16. First responders and other service providers must be accompanied by security when visiting the site
17. Brush and low tree limbs below 6' should be trimmed to maintain maximum visibility across the campsite

Safety & Security Recommendations cont.

Initial Recommendations for Discussion

18. Wildlife deterrents on site (air horn, bear spray)
19. Dogs must always be leashed
20. Lockers for personal storage of items
21. Designated camps and areas within camps for vulnerable populations
(i.e. women, elderly, disabled)
22. No alcohol consumption on site
23. First aid kits on site with Narcan as part of every kit
24. Fires only allowed in designated firepits that the city will provide
25. Fire suppression devices on site and consideration of prohibition on propane or sanctioned use

Remaining Meeting Process

June 15 (1:00 – 2:30):	Supportive Services Recommendations
June 22 (10:30-12:00):	Planning and Design + Site and Location Recommendations
June 29 (1:00-2:30):	Operations and Maintenance Recommendations
July 5 (2:30-3:30):	Final Recommendation Report Review
July 6 (tbd):	Final Recommendation Report Due to Assembly

ADJOURNMENT

Sign in List

name	email	Org
Charlie Welch	907.Charles.Welch@gmail.com	Community Member
the Rev. Andy Bartel	pastorandy@stjohnanchorage.org	United Methodist Church
Jay Kardon	JonathanKardon8@gmail.com	AKPTA
TONY V. Andrew	tjandrew007@yahoo.com	Co-Member
Dylan Faber	dfaber@matson.com	Matson
CAROLINE STORM	cstorm@1117designstudio.com	COMMUNITY
Sylvia Villamides	AKHR@gci.net	AKHR / DTCC
Kristine Stoehne	Kristine Stoehne	MTCC
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Betsy Baker	baker3b@mac.com	Community member
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Kenn Cross	kenn-cross@burlington.ak.us	AK Assembly