

Emergency Shelter Assessment Committee

Remote Meeting

Thursday, March 18, 2021

8:30 am – 10:00 am

Minutes

Name	Organization
Adam Harr	City of Portland
Cullen Ryan	CHOM
Kelly Walsh	City of Portland
Aaron Geyer	City of Portland
Jim Devine	HVJ
Oliver Bradeen	Milestone Recovery
Bill Higgins	Ha4aLL
Jenny Stasio	Through These Doors
Donna Yellen	Preble Street
Anna Brewer	Preble Street/HVJ
Marybeth Twomey	TOA

Name	Organization
Norm Maze	Shalom House
Ben Martineau	HVJ
Vickey Rand	CHOM
Andrew Bove	Preble Street
Oriana Farnham	MEJP
Brian Townsend	Amistad
Rob Liscord	MEJP
Mary Cook	PATH/TOA
Peter McLaughlin	People's Housing Coalition
Sydney Avitia-Jacques	People's Housing Coalition
Ben Strick	Spurwink

- **Welcome and Introductions**

- Need a process to distribute minutes for approval at the next meeting.
- City of Portland MOVED that the Social Services Executive Assistant take the minutes and post them on the ESAC web page and not the agenda center. Shalom House SECONDED. Discussion:
 - Would increase transparency.
 - Minutes previously were sent out and posted along with the monthly statistics.
- If this does not serve a public process, what is the deadline for their approval? Storing the minutes centrally will help with institutional knowledge retention through staff turnover.

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- VOTE: the MOTION PASSED unanimously.
- **CDBG Budget**
 - Kelly Walsh, HCD Program Manager, is looking for a vote today for ESAC to recommend passage at the City Council.
 - Kelly explained the City ESG Budget specific to the Family Shelter an Oxford Street Shelter.
 - Moving away from prevention services due to the eviction moratorium. Funding more life skills programing instead.
 - HMIS admin is capped at highest and will be paying for staff.
 - Formal piece on homeless prevention requires a 14 day notice in-hand.
 - Haven't been able to serve people under this pot of money.
 - Life skills more flexible: client safety, cooking, and other programming for good landlord relations and keeping people housed.
 - Seeking an endorsement from ESAC.
 - Paperwork must be submitted to the city council by the 31st.
 - Leaves one week for an electronic vote.
 - A motion can be made today.
 - Community Housing of Maine MOVED to endorse the ESG budget; Preble Street SECONDED.
 - Discussion:
 - Why is the homeless health line is \$0?
 - It has not been funded since FY15. It is not a program offered by the City.
 - Greater Portland Health took over the healthcare services when homeless health closed.
 - That money was redistributed to other programs in OSS and the family shelter.
 - VOTE: The MOTION PASSED Unanimously.
- **Shelter Licensing**
 - The HHS&PS Committee will take additional public comment on Shelter Licensing at the May meeting.
 - The committee took the ESAC and others' feedback, but continued advocacy is needed so the needs of houseless community members are not forgotten.
 - Does this have the votes to pass in the full council?
 - Potential redraft of the advocacy letter to clarify inaccuracies:
 - There were two abstentions, but the vote was reported as unanimous.
 - The four deaths were not due to shelter occupancy limits.
 - A redraft does not take away from the message and it is important to report accurate information.
 - If we redraft the letter, who is the audience? Send it to the same people who received the first letter.
 - What is the definition of unanimous?

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- Under Robert's Rules, a unanimous vote looks at all votes and does not consider non-votes.
- Action: Write an additional letter from ESAC that clarifies these two pieces while thanking them for accepting feedback.
- City of Portland MOVED to redraft the ESAC Shelter Licensing advocacy letter to reflect the two abstentions in the vote and to amend the language on the people who passed away for accuracy. Shalom House SECONDED. Discussion:
 - Send a follow up email that identifies inaccuracies in the first shelter licensing advocacy letter, gives accurate information and further information demonstrating the need for shelter before then next ESAC meeting.
 - ESAC takes its responsibility to share accurate data seriously.
 - Spurwink MOVED to amend original motion, moving to send a follow up letter that identifies inaccuracies in the first shelter licensing advocacy letter, gives accurate information and further information demonstrating the need for shelter before then next ESAC meeting.
 - Homeless Voices for Justice SECONDED the motion as amended.
 - Ask: if the abstentions are part of the amendment. Support for adding it.
 - The MOTION PASSED as amended unanimously.
- Amistad MOTION to include that the City of Portland and the United Way abstained from the first advocacy letter's vote. City of Portland SECONDED.
 - The MOTION PASSED unanimously, with two abstentions from Maine Equal Justice and Homeless Voices for Justice.
- A small group will work on the letter then send it to the full group.
- **Needs at Hotels**
 - PHC spoke to Councilor Ali about how there is not enough support at the hotels and is working on a summary on what is working well at the hotels and what needs improving.
 - There is a disconnect between what the council thinks is happening at the hotels and what is seen on the ground.
 - There is a google form survey to gather this info.
 - <https://forms.gle/3zzXxG6ectBoSLBt9>
 - What's heard on the ground?
 - Scheduling is an obstacle (when food comes, etc.)
 - Service providers asked to complete within the next week.
 - Street Outreach Collaborative is increasing outreach efforts, aligning with Amistad and the Home Team for outreach to the GA non-staffed hotels.
 - Attempting to create an intentional outreach schedule.
 - The effort is to offer clarity on cracks in service to the city, service providers and people accessing services.
- **Next Steps**
 - Possible extension of the meeting from an hour and a half to two hours.