

Emergency Shelter Assessment Committee

Remote Meeting

Thursday, April 1, 2021

8:30 am – 10:00 am

Minutes

Name	Organization
Adam Harr	City of Portland
Cullen Ryan	CHOM
Jim Devine	HVJ
Bill Higgins	Ha4aLL
Jenny Stasio	Through These Doors
Donna Yellen	Preble Street
Anna Brewer	Preble Street/HVJ
Mary Cook	PATH/TOA
Vickey Rand	CHOM

Name	Organization
Norm Maze	Shalom House
Ben Martineau	HVJ
Brian Townsend	Amistad
Rob Liscord	MEJP
Sydney Avitia-Jacques	People's Housing Coalition
Ben Strick	Spurwink
Dan Coyne	United Way
Amy Geren	Portland Downtown

- **Outcomes from last meeting and continued membership discussion**
 - The last meeting discussed membership with some organizations believing that there are advantages to broadening membership and some organizations believing there are advantages to keeping membership small.:
 - Advantages in broadening the group.
 - Higher value in inclusion of members outside of the core defined group.
 - Advantages in keeping the group small.
 - At the last meeting, a motion was made that defines organizations eligible for membership.
 - Broad enough for most entities to be ruled in.
 - Reread the motion and shared the discussion that made it clear that the motion defines eligibility for voting membership: “Membership be restricted to organizations whose mission or practice includes focusing on ending homeless, providing services to the

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- unhoused community, funding services for the unhoused community, or advocating alongside the unhoused community. “
- Will there be members who do not vote?
 - There were organizations around the table periodically that are not currently who should be included in membership but it's not clear if they have the attendance to retain voting rights for their involvement in funding homeless initiatives and policy affecting homelessness in Portland. Examples: MaineHousing, Westbrook GA, DHHS.
 - If there were two forms of membership (voting/non-voting) there would be a more robust conversation.
 - This should be worked out before a public meeting.
 - The public has been asking about membership and governance.
 - We need to determine how an organization qualifies to be a member to be able to answer when asked.
 - Just because a person is well intentioned does not make them eligible to be a member. They need to represent an organization.
 - How would they demonstrate eligibility? Submit a mission statement?
 - It has been discussed that membership requests go through the governance committee.
 - Governance recommends to the greater ESAC membership and then the greater membership votes?
 - Is the voting membership versus membership really asking about closed versus open meetings?
 - Is our ability to have honest discussion threatened by opening up attendance & membership.
 - How are we using inclusivity and exclusivity?
 - It is not exclusive to focus our energy on groups with the most expertise.
 - There are times when the meetings should be open to whoever is interested, but we are having this conversation because there have been issues where conversations weren't safe.
 - Example of organizations taking statements out of context to fight new shelter developments.
 - Having this conversation because of the changes in our community in the last year, COVID and remote meetings increasing access for people opposed to shelter and solutions.
 - Potential for conflicts of interest if we open up membership.
 - Members have been treated poorly in previous meetings but did not ask those involved not to participate in future meetings. We can have a code of conduct to enforce standards on behavior & comments.
 - ESAC is not a City meeting and can define itself. ESAC doesn't need to be a public forum; we have the Council and their committees. We don't come to give three minutes of public comment; we come here to solve problems.
 - Having more voices is good and fear closing things off would make us marginal to the community at risk of becoming an echo chamber.

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- Propose quarterly open meeting where anyone can participate. Groups seeking membership should send their mission statement to the governance committee and the full membership votes at the full meetings.
- Think about all the impacts on homelessness and include stakeholders, including opposing ones if they want to be part of solutions. A code of conduct, facilitation, and supermajority voting structure can mitigate issues.
 - Make things about organizations, not individuals.
- Is ESAC a group that takes anyone who joins to collaboratively solve issues?
 - How do we think ESAC would be most effective?
- We are not creating safe space for people experiencing homelessness by including people who are causing direct harm to them.
- People's Housing Coalition MOVED that we have quarterly meetings open to anyone in the community without vetting. Groups seeking membership should send the governance committee their mission statement and any other relevant information. The governance committee would bring it to meetings for the membership to vote on. Shalom House SECONDED.
 - DISCUSSION:
 - It sounds like two different motions: An open quarterly meeting AND Membership request and approval. These can be amended into two motions.
 - Amend to send the mission statement and reasons why an organization is seeking ESAC membership and examples of work that aligns with ESAC's mission.
 - How does this align with the motion that passed last meeting?
 - Clarification is needed on the difference between participation and membership.
 - A motion for membership suggested, structuring around attendance and participation.
- MOTION AMENDED by People's Housing Coalition: anybody seeking membership would send a request to the executive committee, sending a copy of their mission statement, reason for joining and examples of work they have done that aligns with ESAC's mission. Shalom House SECONDED.
 - DISCUSSION:
 - Amend the motion to include the shared purpose attestation.
 - Change the language to send a mission statement if they have one.
 - What happens if they have a mission statement that doesn't align but would attest to the shared purpose?
 - MOTION FURTHER AMENDED: "anybody seeking membership would send a request to the executive committee, sending a copy of their mission statement if they have one, attest to statements of shared purpose, and send their reason for joining and examples of work they have done that aligns with ESAC's mission. The full group votes to determine membership."
 - This will be the first item on the table at the next meeting.