

**Health & Human Services and Public Safety Committee Minutes****Tuesday, June 26, 2018, 5:30pm, Council Chambers, City Hall**

Committee Attendance: Councilors Belinda Ray, Chair (District 1), Brian Batson (District 3), Pious Ali (At-Large)

Councilor Attendance: Jill Duson (At-Large)

City Attendance: City Manager, Jon Jennings; Mayor, Ethan Strimling; Director of Health and Human Services, Dawn Stiles; Assistant City Manager, Mona Bector, General Assistance Program Manager, Aaron Geyer; Shelter Director, Robert Parritt; Director of Social Services, David MacLean; City Planning Director, Tuck O'Brian; HR Director, Gina Tapp

AGENDA ITEM 1 – Announcements

Paid sick leave would only be discussed if the Homelessness Services Center agenda item concluded before 7:00 PM; due to time, paid sick leave was not discussed at this meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 2 – Approval of June 10, 2018 Meeting +Minutes:

Chair Ray announced that Paid Sick Leave would
Councilor Batson moved to accept the minutes and the minutes were approved unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 2 – Homelessness Services Center.

City Manager, Jon Jennings – After researching all viable areas throughout the City, the Baron Center Campus was chosen; this was considered after the rezoning process that occurred last year.

- Rezoning must happen for this parcel.
- It will be based on a best practices model for emergency shelter with wrap-around services.
- Community partners will deliver services directly at the center.

Director of the Oxford Street Shelter, Robert Parritt

- Rob gave an overview of the history of the shelter
 - Current Shelter
 - Dormitories over three floors
 - Exterior Bathrooms
 - Storage
 - New Model: consolidated Services
 - Dormitory on one floor
 - Community engagement
 - Wrap Around Services
 - Volunteer Opportunities

- Rezoning will allow the City to best serve the community while addressing community concerns
 - Transportation
 - Isolation
- Current Services
 - Housing
 - Paramedicine
- Expanded Services
 - Healthcare
 - Medical Care
 - Substance use
 - Dental
 - Assuage predatory behavior targeting shelter guests; large portion of the people who congregate in front of the shelter do not stay at the shelter or access services
 - Storage
 - Community partners will deliver services at the shelter
 - Campus has a modern design
 - First floor dormitory
 - Raised beds (no more mats on the floor)
 - Clear site lines for safety
 - Second floor office and services space
 - Transportation
 - Infrastructure investment to make the neighborhood more pedestrian friendly
 - Crosswalks
 - Bus stops
 - The Comprehensive Plan encourages the decentralization of services to help fight stigma and help integrate individuals experiencing homelessness with the surrounding communities

Tuck O'Brian – Zoning

- D5 to D4 Map change
 - Clearest solution
 - Buffers

Police Chief Sauschuck – Security Impact Analysis

- Bayside
 - Arrest and incident statistics viewed as a systems level issue
- Barron Center and Loring house
 - Building Infrastructure
 - PD would be heavily involved with planning for safety including a possible satellite police station.
 - The comprehensive model addresses the issues stemming from the concentration of services in Bayside
 - Community Policing
 - City owned property allows more agency and speed in security solutions.

Committee Questions

Chair Ray outlined the expectations of the meeting and the following meeting:

- Committee Questions June 26, 2018
- Public Comment July 10
- First zoning votes possible on July 24th

Councilor Batson has concerns about transportation, that the Center would rely heavily on the Metro.

- The shelter already transports shelter guests with City Vehicles
- Accessibility: How accessible is the Metro and Huskie Line?
 - Logisticare
 - Shuttle Service
 - stops at each provider throughout the day
 - Reliable Schedule
 - Coordinated with the H.O.M.E. Team
 - When Milestone is full, how will intoxicated individuals access transportation? Staff will transport via City-owned SUV
 - How will transportation changes and systems be conveyed to the public? House meetings and outreach
- Which service providers were informed of this recommendation
 - Amistad
 - Shalom House
 - Healthcare provider to open clinic that serves guests and public
- There are elements that would exist no matter where the shelter is located
- No services would be cut off;
 - How many shelter guests were referred to the Barron Center and Loring House directly from the shelter without a healthcare provider making the referral
- What conversations have occurred with businesses in the area:
 - No official agreements at this early stage but informal conversations have occurred with the Home Depot.
- Councilor Batson asked for other descriptors of the Center plan and the Com Plan.
 - Integrated facility that weaves community into service delivery.
 - Exploring more efficient delivery of services
 - A scattered site model does not integrate like the integrated best practices model does
 - Connectivity
 - One Portland Concept: fair and equitably share resources across the City, not just the Peninsula
 - Is this specific to the Barron Center Campus
 - The Brighton Ave Infrastructure Improvement: \$500,000
 - Pedestrian and bicycle safety infrastructure improvement
 - Husky Line
 - Public and Private funding sources including a reserve of savings from other projects
 - These improvements would occur regardless of where the Center is located.

Councilor Ali asked for a comparison of scattered site model versus a comprehensive model.

- Scattered site is significantly more expensive and logistically complex
- Staff will share the analysis with the committee
- Costs? All programs are grant funded based on performance measures

- Start-up costs
 - less due to City owned land
 - Financing model will be a public private partnership
- Councilor Ali asked Chief Sauschuck: A constituent has reported to Councilor Ali that Children in Sagamore village have been breaking into cars.
 - Kids break into cars all over the City; they haven't specifically collected that information
- Potential Community Policing Satellite
 - 10% of shelter population lead to a majority of service calls (Police and Medical)
 - Nearest community policing center is in Sagamore village based on CDBG regulations
 - A satellite office makes sense for community policing and enforcement
 - Satellite is being used as a general term; There is a potential for a community policing officer or coordinator
 - Regardless of the land is owned by the City, community policing
- Chair Ray asked Rob to speak to the character of the shelter guest in light of the location allowing guests easier access to employment with surrounding businesses.
 - Most individuals stay for less than 30 days: circumstantially homeless
 - Many work full time
 - The remaining guests require more intervention as compounding vulnerabilities such as persistent mental health or substance use disorder led to them entering and remaining in homelessness.
 - Chair Ray asked Rob to explain how the new center won't share the issues experienced in Bayside
 - Lack of control of surrounding property – City will own the land
 - No privacy – space for people to relax and not be on display or accessible to drug dealers and human traffickers
 - Interior courtyard allows for outdoor relaxation without the above stressors
 - Have the changes made at the shelter had an observational impact on shelter guests (24 hour services, storage, bathroom)
 - Qualitative observation improved affect
 - 1 FTE Street Outreach bringing people in and connecting them to services
 - Community Health Clinic
 - Health clinic would be on the second floor and have a separate entrance for the public. (medical, dental, mental health)

Mayor Ethan Strimmling –

Best location for the community served, not the best location of the options available

- Map on of Baron Center Campus
 - Corner of Home Avenue and Brighton Avenue
 - Utilized parking behind prosed location
 - No City owned emergency adult shelter other than the Family Shelter would remain on the peninsula.
 - Should there be an emergency shelter downtown?
 - Many people are housed and sleep downtown due to the concentration of services
 - Historically the concentration of all services can trap people downtown
 - Without being routed downtown for services, guests will have greater agency over their time

- Homelessness does not originate downtown:
 - 1/3 are from Portland
 - 1/3 are from other Maine Towns
 - 1/3 are from Out of State/Country
- Mayor Strimling asked staff to consider that some services would remain downtown and where would people go if stranded at night
- Services are walkable from Bayside
 - Mindful transportation logistics is identified as a crucial component.
 - What services are walkable from the Barron Center Campus?
 - Access to Day Labor on Brighton Ave?
 - Laundry and food services and case management currently available in Bayside would be replicated within the Center in a way that increases access for the most vulnerable
- Partner Agency story: An individual struggling with addiction was able to access detox and had to leave the neighborhood from the triggers
- Without buy-in from the community and community partners this initiative will fail
 - What deliverables can partnering agencies commit to?
 - What is the sustainability outlook on these services?
 - The facility resources will eliminate overhead for partners including dedicated office space.
 - Is this conversation premature and applicable to site selection?
 - The sustainability of services would determine the success of any location or model that leverages wrap around services
 - Buy-in commitment is essential but how practical is a long term contract (versus commitment pledge?)
- Shuttle Schedules should consider seasons and weather's influence on where and when people spend time throughout the city; staying up later for events and entertainment downtown in the summer
- Police – Impact Analysis
 - 10% of the shelter population prey on the remaining 90%
 - It will be observable who is and is not seeking services due to the by-name lists used to end homelessness
 - Mayor Strimling expressed concern on concentrating one socioeconomic group in a single area and if that was considered; Sagamore village is comprised of people who are housed versus the individuals in Bayside experience daily crisis in homelessness
 - low-income individuals who are housed in Public housing face different challenges than the vulnerability of people experiencing homelessness. Homelessness greatly increases subspecialty to criminal predation; this is marked by the issues in Bayside not spilling into the East bayside neighborhood.

- Rezoning
 - Ask the council to rezone and
 - Committee affirmation that this is the site of the new facility
 - Size of parcel
 - RFP process and other fiscal process details will be considered in the financial plan
 - A public-private partnership is expected as the costs are nearly guaranteed to be too much for the City to bear alone.
 - Homeless Voices For Justice is very interested and has continued dialogue with City staff
 - Healthcare providers will be invited to speak at the July 10th meeting and to provide some information
 - Councilor Batson requested information on other sites that were considered and why they are not as desirable as the Barron center campus
 - Were any of those sites cut because they were too small and would be appropriate for smaller scattered site shelters that focus on specific sub populations
 - Outreach to camps will continue
 - Costs are being determined and could range from leveraging office space for ad hoc, drop-in use or installing a permanent presence.
- Councilor Ali asked of the meeting requested by the neighborhood association is open to the public.

Chair Ray thanked the City staff who gathered data and presented to the committee

City Manager Jennings reiterated the goal is for the process to be as transparent as possible and additional meetings are welcome.

The Mayor requested that client feedback be included. Shelter staff will reach out to consumers.

Next meeting: July 10th