



**CITY OF SILVERTON
HOMELESS/HOUSING TASK FORCE
MEETING**

Americans with Disabilities Act – *The City of Silverton intends to comply with the A.D.A. The electronic meeting is accessible to individuals needing special accommodations such as a sign language interpreter, headphones, or other special accommodations for the hearing impaired. To participate, please contact the City at 503-874-2216 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.*

A copy of the full packet will be available on the City's website at www.silverton.or.us/agendacenter. In accordance with House Bill 2560 and City of Silverton Resolution 22-06, the meeting will be held electronically using the Zoom web conference platform. Please submit written comments to publiccomment@silverton.or.us by 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday, June 22, 2022. Comments received will be shared with the Homeless/Housing Task Force before the meeting and included in the record.

Zoom Meeting Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84615289544?pwd=eUJQTGswSEJZSXdDRGtrSXVUS1NOUT09>

Webinar ID: 846 1528 9544

Passcode: 091283

Dial-in: 1 253 215 8782

Wednesday, June 22, 2022 – 6:00 p.m.

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call**
- II. Approval of Minutes** – Minutes from the meeting held on April 27, 2022.
- III. Public Comment** – Items not on this agenda.
- IV. Discussion/Action** – Items not on the agenda to be discussed by the Task Force.
- V. Adjournment**

**CITY OF SILVERTON
HOMELESS/HOUSING TASK FORCE MINUTES**

Zoom Web Conference Platform

April 27, 2022, 6:00 p.m.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Kyle Palmer called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. The task force members and staff were present through the virtual meeting platform Zoom. Chair Palmer explained the meeting is being held through Zoom in accordance with House Bill 2560.

Present	Excused	
X		Kyle Palmer
	X	Rachel-Anne Rapoza
	X	Sarah White
X		Helen Thomas
X		Connie Yoder
X		Dana Smith
X		Jennifer Hannan
X		Sarah DeSantis
X		Kayla Burdine-Rea
X		Karen Garst
X		Joseph Schmaus

Staff Present:

City Manager, Ron Chandler and Assistant to the City Manager/City Clerk, Traci Nichols.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Member Smith moved to approve the minutes from the March 23, 2022 meeting. Member Garst seconded. Minutes approved.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment received in the City Clerk’s office, no public comment by phone or via Zoom.

IV. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEM

Member Burdine-Rea discussed a building that was potentially being donated to Sheltering Silverton. She said the building wasn’t fully a donation – there was a small cost associated. She is concerned that it’s not suitable for their needs, and the amount that would be needed to make it suitable. City Manager Ron Chandler stated they had the go-ahead to move the diesel tank on the future site of Sheltering Silverton’s new building. He said the only concern is any contamination under the tank, due to the tank’s age and length of time it has been in place. The City is working with Marion County on reimbursement, etc. As soon as the City knows a building is coming, staff will tear down the old building, put up the decant facility and prep the site for a new building to be brought in. Member Smith asked if Member Burdine-Rea would like to discuss the donated building with her at a different time. Member Burdine-Rea said there was another possibility that had presented itself, and she was weighing the options.

Chair Palmer asked Member Burdine-Rea for an update on Sheltering Silverton. She said things are working out well in their space, there had been a slow down due to the weather warming up. She said some clients that had been absent from the area are back now. Three

persons were housed last month, and a fourth one is almost there. St. Edwards is waiting for approval from the diocese to move forward with the cottages, but when they approve it, Sheltering Silverton will go back to the City for re-approval. She is hopeful they'll be up and running by summer. Safe Parking Program is working out really well. Two of the people that had been in the Program are the ones who have been housed. They are considering expanding their hours into 7 days a week services. Chair Palmer asked what the material changes were in the plan for St. Edwards, if there are any, compared to what was approved before. Member Burdine-Rea said what they're doing now is similar to what the plan was before-some of the verbiage has been fine-tuned. They will have a village manager in one of the cottages, so there is leadership and oversight at all times. She doesn't think that portion of the plan will need a full work group. She believes the reason they need to go back to the City is because the project was put on hold. They need to prove that the fence has been put up-which was something on the previous to-do list. Nothing has materially changed that she knows of. Chair Palmer didn't know if it had to go before City Council again-it could possibly be run by the Community Development Director.

Chair Palmer led the group into open discussion. He said they were at a stopping/waiting point with the project at the City Shops. He wondered what else could they be doing in the community, what other resources could be brought. He asked Member Burdine-Rea about the topic of a public education forum. Has there been any discussion on that? Member Burdine-Rea said she wasn't aware of recent discussion on that, but wasn't opposed to it. Chair Palmer asked the City Manager if it would be appropriate for this group to host the forum. CM Chandler said he thought it would be appropriate. Chair Palmer asked if the group would be interested. He said he didn't think it was Sheltering Silverton's job to handle everything. Member Garst clarified with Chair Palmer if he was suggesting an event that could be attended, or if this was going to be a prepared presentation that would be taken to various places. Chair Palmer said he thought it was going to be an event at the High School for a few hours; a program with various components. He felt it should be appropriately branded to draw more people than those who already work in this field. Member Schmaus said he'd had a number of conversations with people not associated with Sheltering Silverton. He said that there was a lack of information-for instance, with the mental health population. He said it was apparent that people thought it was easy to obtain help for these parties. He thinks a public forum meeting would be very beneficial. Chair Palmer said people don't know what a process it is to have someone come in, and attempt to build a relationship and find services for them. Aside from people doing the work, people are absent information they should have. He thinks this committee could borrow use of the High School auditorium on a Saturday, without much trouble because of the relationship with the School District. He thinks it would be important to have some people share their stories. He believes we should be proactive in educating the community. While Sheltering Silverton has the experts, he doesn't believe it should be solely their responsibility to handle the educational piece. Member Schmaus said he would tell his story, as a person who has transitioned. He would like to see some of their clients share theirs. Chair Palmer said there was power in the numbers of people who have been successful. Member Smith said she thought [the forum] was a great idea. She is skeptical about the size of the crowd they might get on a Saturday. She thinks that it would have to be pretty far off, and a lot of effort to get the word out and make sure this forum doesn't conflict with anything else. Chair Palmer mentioned that previously, there had not been large attendance in similar forum-type gatherings. He feels that getting the word out on an event/forum like this will spur discussion on social media. He doesn't feel like a low attendance would be a failure. Member Smith asked about putting together a brochure with stats that could be handed out at the Farmers Market. Member Burdine-Rea has been in talks with Hannah [Paysinger] about having a table downtown at First Friday. She thinks they could get out there and talk to people, and get the word out and educate. She also mentioned having a table at Homer Davenport Festival. Chair Palmer thought that was a good idea-he said the Strawberry Festival didn't have booths last year, but might this year.

Chair Palmer wondered if there were congregations of people (a camp) within the City. Member Schmaus said there were individual camps. Camps are up off the Abiqua [Creek]. Chair Palmer wondered if the people using the Safe Parking Program still have access to the restroom. Member Burdine-Rea indicated where the bathroom they could use was.

Member Garst asked about the pallet shelters, confirming the City didn't want to put them up without a building for Sheltering Silverton. CM Chandler said that there would be no place for showering, cooking, bathroom. The shelters were just a building with electricity. He said the City would need to put up fencing to separate the shelters from the Shops. He said that the building really was needed in there. Chair Palmer said it would be nice to find somewhere the shelters could be used this winter, even if they weren't all going to be in the same place. Member Smith said there was talk of putting them in the Library parking lot, which didn't work out. She is concerned about not having a spot next year. She said the shelters are designed to easily be put up and taken down – if the Shops can't be prepped to have them all in place, it would be nice to find another location. She thinks it would be best to have them all in one place. Member Burdine-Rea said some of the issue was running electricity for the shelters – and what would that be tied to...and the restroom facilities. That's been a barrier from just putting them up somewhere. Chair Palmer said the St. Edwards cottages were originally not going to have electricity – he said that was a building/state code. He said there was that triangular space behind the pool, not far from Sheltering Silverton to keep an eye on them – there wouldn't be electricity, likely. He said it felt like they needed to find somewhere – a church or something – that would be willing to host for a year. Member Smith chimed in and said that just a few months would be needed. She said that putting the shelters up and not having electricity to them was still better than being outside. We could get a porta-potty. CM Chandler was unclear as to whether or not they were talking about the pallet shelters that would become transitional housing for people to stay in while they get back on their feet, or if they're talking about a warming facility. He didn't know how one would do pallet shelters as part of transitional housing with no electricity or the other facilities. He wasn't sure what they're trying to accomplish for this winter. Chair Palmer said that if they were used throughout the winter, they're better than being outside. Prior to the winter, if the shelters lock then persons could lock their belongings inside. Member Garst asked about a generator. Chair Palmer thought it would be against the code – he believes it has to be hard-wired electricity. CM Chandler said they did use generators in Salem, but the only way they could get around the building codes was to declare a housing emergency. Chair Palmer doesn't think code would allow Sheltering Silverton to use the shelters without electricity. Member Yoder wondered if the shelters could be deemed emergency-short term, until the more formal set-up could be completed. Chair Palmer lamented the amount of time it had taken to erect the Cottages at St. Edwards-which are still unoccupied, and the amount of time it was taking to get the pallet shelters going. Member Garst said it was tragic to have 4 pallet shelters and we can't put them anywhere. She said just something to lock to put their items in [would help]. She suggested we start discussing an emergency declaration or something to get the pallet shelters put up, and put a discussion on next month's agenda. Chair Palmer asked if anyone had heard of a model for a community locker system – an outdoor structure with 10-20 lockable bays or cupboards. CM Chandler said that as we're looking at this, are we looking for an overnight shelter or longer term? Member Garst said that it wouldn't be night by night – it would be temporary until we can find a building for Sheltering Silverton. It might be until next winter, or until we can get a building for Sheltering Silverton – and then they would be moved. Chair Palmer clarified – are we talking about if a person was allowed to live there for a month or 2 months while they were transitioning, night by night to avoid the cold? CM Chandler said that, while discussing the plan for the Sheltering Silverton structure at the City Shops, the 4 pallet shelters would be the homes for people while transitioning into permanent living. The Sheltering Silverton building would have kitchen and bath, and could act as a temporary warming shelter. He wanted to make sure he knew what we were actually looking for: longer term temporary, or shelter for the night. Member Burdine-Rea said Sheltering Silverton is liable and responsible for caring for the people inside the shelters. She wondered if when the shelters were purchased, were they purchased under specific requirements for usage? She thinks about the problems they are going to have: there are 8 beds among those 4 shelters. Sheltering Silverton hoteled 20-25 people consistently all winter long. If she only has 8 beds, and the staff has to deal with first-come/first-served sheltering, they do not have the manpower to handle that. Winter shelter is typically supervised – and the people being put in shelters have to sign behavior agreements that are almost like a tenant agreement. Staff almost has to reprogram their program in utilizing the shelters. Member Garst said the idea after the grant for the shelters was to get the churches to take one or two, and put a porta-potty there.

They were more transitional housing. At the time they were obtained, we had a warming shelter at Oak Street Church. She thinks they were much like the cottages, in that they were meant to be transitional. Does it have to be an emergency to get this going? Chair Palmer thinks they were purchased as part of Covid grant money, justified as ongoing emergency shelters. He is worried about how it would be run logistically, and how it would affect Sheltering Silverton. Member Hannan said the informational path might be the key to having organizations take one or more of the shelters. We've gone for years trying to figure out where to put these; maybe it's the greater community and them having the information, that would make them feel comfortable taking one of those on. Who knows what's out there—if we're having conversations with the right people.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Member Smith made a motion to adjourn and Chair Palmer adjourned the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

/s/ Traci Nichols, Assistant to the City Manager/City Clerk