



## **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 meeting location 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 503-874-2204 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.*

A copy of the full packet is available on the City's website at [www.silverton.or.us/agendacenter](http://www.silverton.or.us/agendacenter). In accordance with House Bill 4212 the meeting will be held electronically using the Zoom web conference platform. Please submit written comments to [aspeier@silverton.or.us](mailto:aspeier@silverton.or.us) by 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 2, 2020. 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/81609704220?pwd=MmwxOUltNmZkZzhFSWpFNkt2OHJ2UT09>

Webinar ID: 816 0970 4220

Passcode: 209491

Dial in: 1 (253) 215-8782

**Wednesday, December 2, 2020 – 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 October 28, 2020
- III. Public Comment** – Items not on this agenda
- IV. Discussion/Action Item**
  - 4.1 Educational Cohort Proposal – Douglas Jenkins
- V. Task Force Updates**
  - 5.1 Sheltering Silverton
  - 5.2 Other updates
- VI. Next Steps**
- VII. Adjournment**

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

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4 **October 28, 2020, 6:00 p.m.**

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6 **I. CALL TO ORDER**

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8 Chair Kyle Palmer called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. The task force members and staff were  
9 present through the virtual meeting platform Zoom. Chair Palmer explained the meeting is being held  
10 through Zoom in accordance with House Bill 4212.

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12

Present	Absent	
X		Kyle Palmer
X		Jaime Fuhrman
X		Sara White
X		Helen Thomas
X		Jess Miller
X		Dana Smith ( <i>departed at 7:22 pm</i> )
X		Jennifer Hannan
X		Sarah DeSantis
X		Hilary Dumitrescu ( <i>arrived at 6:03 pm</i> )
	X	Karolle Hughes
	X	Joseph Schmaus

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27 Staff Present:  
28 Assistant to the City Manager/City Clerk, Angela Speier

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30 **II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

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32 Member Dumitrescu made a motion to approve the minutes from the meeting held on September 16,  
33 2020. Member Miller seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously  
34 (9-0).

35  
36 **III. PUBLIC COMMENT – None**

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38 **IV. REVIEW COMMUNITY SURVEY RESULTS**

39  
40 Assistant to the City Manager/City Clerk Angela Speier reviewed the community survey results. The  
41 survey was open for 20 days and the Task Force received 196 responses. The Task Force members  
42 indicated overall the survey results were encouraging and identified areas where Sheltering Silverton and  
43 other nonprofits can provide more education to the community. Member White said Sheltering Silverton  
44 has tried posting educational materials on their Facebook page, but would be interested in other  
45 educational tools. Sheltering Silverton has data from their clients that disproves the prevailing myth that  
46 people they serve are not from Silverton. Chair Palmer said it has to be an ongoing educational campaign  
47 that is backed by other community members sharing facts. Member Smith asked if Sheltering Silverton  
48 could share data from their intake information that shows what percentage of individuals they have helped  
49 are from Silverton. She said citing numbers makes the argument more believable. Member Dumitrescu  
50 said Sheltering Silverton will be using clips from a video filmed about their work as an interactive way to  
51 educate and engage the community.

52  
53 Member White said for the record there is no bussing. She said three or four times they have bought  
54 individuals Greyhound tickets in order to connect them with family in other cities or states, but Sheltering

1 Silvertown and Silvertown Area Community Aid (SACA) have never bussed anyone into the community.  
2 Member Miller said it was interesting seeing the comparison between the survey results and the work  
3 Sheltering Silvertown is doing in the community. Member White said Sheltering Silvertown will work on a fact  
4 sheet as part of the educational efforts. Chair Palmer would like to hear more about how Sheltering  
5 Silvertown is moving people into stability in the educational piece which should be everyone's ultimate goal.  
6 Member Smith asked if housing vouchers are applicable to a tiny home, similar to what you would find in  
7 a square one village, where there is a sleeping loft and if it would be considered two rooms. Member  
8 White said she is not aware of a village like that in Marion County where housing vouchers have been  
9 used, but she thought they could be used in that situation. She said they are not allowed to be used in  
10 travel trailers for RV parks or rented rooms in larger homes.

11  
12 Douglas Jenkins asked if it would be possible to use the people who provided their contact information in  
13 the survey as a base to create a program that could be used to educate the community. They could  
14 become a cohort who could then go out and train the community.

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16 Members discussed ways to highlight the survey results, including a side-by-side graphic showing the  
17 survey response verses the reality that can be posted on social media and shown at the Palace Theater  
18 before movies. Member White said there has been talk in the past about doing a symposium or forum on  
19 homelessness in order to shine a light on poverty, domestic violence, human trafficking and  
20 homelessness in the community. She said this would have to be done outside of the winter season and  
21 likely post COVID-19.

## 22 23 **V. TASK FORCE UPDATES**

### 24 25 **5.1 Sheltering Silvertown update and proposal to purchase pallet shelters with CARES Act** 26 **grant funding**

27 Member White said Sheltering Silvertown found out their funding for the winter shelter came through. They  
28 will be using the majority of those funds to place their clients in long-term hotel stays in Salem. She  
29 explained there is a screening process and to be qualified they must reside in the Silver Falls School  
30 District. Case management will be provided to the qualified individuals to move them through the services  
31 they will need to navigate. The Day Resource Center will begin operating out of a new location in  
32 Silvertown on November 14, 2020. Anyone seeking services who do not reside within the Silver Falls  
33 School District will be referred to the Salem Warming Network.

34  
35 Member Dumitrescu explained Oregon Housing and Community Services is distributing federal COVID-  
36 19 funding and the local region is expected to receive \$5.5 million. Sheltering Silvertown is working with  
37 other agencies within the Continuum of Care to submit an application for the \$5.5 million. They are hoping  
38 a portion of this funding could be used to help them purchase a building to run their Resource Center out  
39 of.

40  
41 Member Dumitrescu explained the idea of purchasing pallet shelters to be used for temporary housing.  
42 These shelters are extremely sturdy, have electricity and can house up to four individuals. They can be  
43 built in 20 minutes with no tools. Sheltering Silvertown is requesting the Task Force make a  
44 recommendation to City Council to support using a portion of the City's CARES Act grant funding to  
45 purchase five pallet shelters that can be used for emergency purposes (i.e. fire evacuations), transitional  
46 housing or winter warming. Member Smith asked how these would fit into the City's Development Code.  
47 Member White explained Jason Gottgetreu, Community Development Director said one unit could be  
48 placed on five different church properties under the community service use. Member White said Hood  
49 River County is using pallet shelters in lieu of a warming shelter this year and organizations in Lane  
50 County are also using them. They are all being funded through CARES Act funding. Member Smith said  
51 the Cottage Grove City Council approved the pallet shelters to be placed on a City owned parking lot.

52  
53 Member White said Sheltering Silvertown will potentially have the ability to apply for some funding for a  
54 permanent building and the funding request would be stronger with a letter support from the City, Task  
55 Force and/or the City Council.

1 Member Smith made a motion to recommend City Council allocate CARES funds up to \$25,000 for  
2 Sheltering Silverton to purchase pallet shelters to be used in lieu of a warming shelter. Member Miller  
3 seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously (9-0).  
4

#### 5 **5.2 Other updates**

6 Member DeSantis said SACA numbers have been down since the pandemic due to people receiving  
7 more in SNAP benefits among other reasons. SACA is helping households with rental assistance. SACA  
8 will be opening back up to the public beginning next week for people to shop for food onsite and receive  
9 other services.  
10

11 Member Hannan said distance learning has been challenging all the way around but especially for  
12 children in vulnerable populations. The school district is serving about 65 of their most vulnerable  
13 students at the Silverton Assemble of God Church, because their buildings are not open for limited in-  
14 person instruction. She said they are looking to expand the in-person limited instruction in the next few  
15 weeks. There are about 60 kids that they have not been able to contact at all. She said they are now  
16 engaging the help of the School Resource Officer to contact those students in person. The McKinney-  
17 Vento population ended last school year at about 85 students and this year it is over 125.  
18

19 Douglas Jenkins said he would put together a draft proposal of what an educational cohort could look like  
20 and present it to the Task Force at its next meeting. The next meeting of the Task Force was scheduled  
21 for Wednesday, December 2, 2020.  
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#### 23 **VI. ADJOURNMENT**

24  
25 Member Miller made a motion to adjourn. Member Dumitrescu seconded the motion and Chair Palmer  
26 adjourned the meeting at 7:24 p.m.  
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28 Respectfully submitted by:

29  
30  
31 /s/Angela Speier, Assistant to the City Manager/City Clerk

## Proposal draft

Intent: Sheltering Silverton will share information intended to foster discussions about kindness, compassion, and housing insecurity in Silverton. Sheltering Silverton will follow a process to share with the community facts from its intake and case management data as well as past and current practice. In the course of the process, Sheltering Silverton will learn about the thoughts and aspirations of the members of the Silverton community with regard to the above.

## Process:

1. Sheltering Silverton will convene a group of supporters who will collaborate with Sheltering Silverton to share information with their social contacts about the organization and its operations.
2. On a monthly basis, Sheltering Silverton will provide its team with 1-3 points of information for team members to share with others in the course of their social interactions.
3. Sheltering Silverton will solicit feedback from its communication team members about the extent of their communication and any response team members received about the points of information.

## Format:

- Sheltering Silverton will designate one person to lead the communication stream. That person will also compile feedback from the team and summarize it for Sheltering Silverton's Board and staff.
- Sheltering Silverton Board or staff will compose the points of information which will be distributed each month. The team leader will not distribute information unless it has been created by the Board or the staff.

## Follow-up:

The Sheltering Silverton staff will consider the feedback from the team leader and adjust the communication program as needed. Time for discussion of the feedback should be a formal item on every Board agenda.

## Flow:

1. Sheltering Silverton Board approves the communication/education/outreach program and names a person to be responsible for the program. The Board modifies any pertinent policies to accommodate the program. (Needed policies would especially include process for removal of a team member and process for removal of the team leader.)
2. Sheltering Silverton reaches out to non-profit and governmental partners in Silverton to inform them of the program as approved by the Board. Organizations may be invited to suggest participants for the team.
3. Sheltering Silverton reaches out to all who indicated an interest in helping the organization in their responses to the recent City survey about homelessness.
4. The team is created by the leader appointed by the Board and provides an overview of the communication/education/outreach effort to the team members and some suggested guidelines for members of the team.

5. Team members indicate their preferred media to receive the monthly communication from the team leader. (email or snail mail or phone?)
6. The team leader creates a document on a monthly basis that includes:
  - Points of information from the Board/staff to be shared with their social contacts
  - a focus for the month. For example: Team members, please share/post/re-tweet items with a theme of (kindness -or- compassion for vulnerable people -or- vulnerable populations of people -or- Sheltering Silverton FB items) to be shared with their social contacts.
  - for their own use, not sharing: Tools and facts: For example: a phone number for Sheltering Silverton, the mailing address for sending donations, and a short item intended to help them members who might be dealing with trolls/bullies.
  - Listening: What would you like to share with Sheltering Silverton? What feedback about the points of information have you received?

Some suggested guidelines:

1. Thank you for supporting Sheltering Silverton and helping to supply the community with facts that help them in their thinking and actions related to housing insecurity and homelessness. Please remember that you aren't an official representative of Sheltering Silverton and cannot speak for the Board or the staff.
2. When you share with your social contacts something from another source (especially a social media source) related to our effort to inform the community, be sure to cite the source of your information as part of your posting/re-posting.
3. Should you encounter individuals who prefer to argue with you about the facts you present, please don't. The facts speak for themselves. For further support, please refer to sources about 'confirmation bias' or contact the team leader if this is an ongoing problem.
4. As you begin participating in our effort to share information and build a community of kindness and compassion for the vulnerable, please know your go-to personal support system/individuals who will help you maintain your resilience if you encounter bullies/trolls in the process.