

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

Zoom Web Conference Platform

March 23, 2022, 6:00 p.m.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Kyle Palmer called the meeting to order at 6:01p.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, and City of Silverton Resolution 22-06.

Present	Excused	
X		Kyle Palmer
X		Rachel-Anne Rapoza
X		Sarah White
X	(Joined at 6:18)	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 Garst motioned to approve the minutes from the 2-23-2022 meeting. Member White seconded. Motion passed, minutes approved.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

None noted. No members of the public joined the meeting via Zoom, or dialed in.

IV. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEM

Member White proposed the Task Force invite mental health professionals to come and speak to them regarding the reality of services in Marion County. This comes up frequently for Sheltering Silverton. There is a limit to accessible services in Marion County. For the purposes of decision-making on how community responds to those needs, it would be great to understand how the County responds to these needs. She feels like this should be public, and feels the law enforcement community should be in on the conversation. What is our responsibility in serving those with mental health needs beyond our capacity? Member Garst is fully supportive of this. Member Smith fully supports this concept – she wonders who would do the outreach and coordination of this, and expedite the process? Member White’s thought was multiple people. Having Marion County Adult Behavioral Health is critical, and getting them to the table would be great. Member Rapoza likely has insight as to who would be best from Marion County to invite. Member White can reach out to Shangri-La. Member Yoder wanted to suggest getting the State Hospital involved. Member Rapoza first had a question for Member White: could she give some examples of the issues they are running into? Member White said a recent example involved a person who has frequent contact with law enforcement. That subject needs medication, but has difficulty following a service plan and difficulty getting medication. The subject likely needs

inpatient psychiatric care. Member White thinks it would be helpful for the community to understand the changes made at the State Hospital – civil or criminal commitment. How does someone in psychiatric crisis get assistance? How do you make that help meaningful without advocacy? What are the limits of their [Marion County Adult Behavioral Health] outreach? Member Rapoza mentioned PacificSource, indicating they had a large piece in this as well. Member Rapoza said that if someone is clearly having a mental health crisis, there's a misconception that there is an immediate path to inpatient psychiatric care, or the State Hospital. Or, there's a way to force someone into mental health care. It's extremely difficult to force someone into mental health care, unless they're an immediate danger to self or others. She is unsure as to how to get that information out to the general public. Chair Palmer said having this on our agenda creates talking points. Member Burdine-Rea suggested a public forum. With this being such a present problem, it may very well generate interest. Chair Palmer believes there needs to be a great deal of public education – there may well be citizens who are very receptive to, but wholly unaware, of the situation. Member Smith expressed interest in speaking about mental health needs at the groundbreaking of the Civic Center. Member Garst thinks that there is a consensus on what Member White has suggested. She believes this should be an in-person event, and we should make an effort to get people there. She would like Our Town to be contacted.

Member Garst inquired on the Sheltering Silverton building. City Manager Ron Chandler answered, stating we are in the budget stages of the City's part in this. He reiterated that the grant award was \$250,000, which is only one quarter of what is needed. He mentioned meeting with Sheltering Silverton, and their interest in putting together funds to purchase the building themselves. The question was brought up whether the grant funds could be used to upgrade an existing building. CM Chandler said he had been looking at doing this project in 2 phases. The building is \$448,000, and that's the largest expense. The second largest expense is an extension of the [from 2-inch up to an 8-inch] water line: \$316,680. CM Chandler said that if Sheltering Silverton was able to pay for the building, the City may be able to take care of everything else, save the water line upgrade, in the new fiscal year [which starts in July]. Excluding the modular and the water line upgrade, the total is \$142,470. That number includes the fencing, the decant facility, removal of structures, and electric to the pallet shelters. There may be a little on ground prep work, but most of that will be done by City staff. This project has been included in the City's budget process. He said the budget will be finished and published on April 15th. Member Smith confirmed that everything the grant would pay for is utility infrastructure. CM Chandler indicated that the funds would include a fence, utility connection to the modular building and pallet shelters, tear down of the old building, decant facility, and site prep. The decant facility will be moved, and a cover will be put over the top of it. Member Smith asked if it had been discussed to allow services in before upgrade of the water line. CM Chandler said the 2-inch line was sufficient to support the City Shops and the [Sheltering Silverton] building. He said to get the project started, the 2-inch is sufficient. Member Smith wanted to make sure we aren't prioritizing not-necessary infrastructure over necessary services. She inquired as to whether we would be able to get this up and running before the next winter season. CM Chandler said the funds were ready to transfer now, and the project could be completed relatively quickly.

Member Burdine-Rea inquired if a building could be purchased using the grant funds that would be left after site prep, or if that would go against the [public procurement] rules. CM Chandler said that would not go against those rules. Member Burdine-Rea mentioned looking into a used manufactured home for sale, which was about 1600 square feet, that had been on the market for some time. She asked the other members of the Task Force to keep an eye out for companies or persons who might be willing to either donate, or offer at a substantial discount, a building that would be suitable for the project. She also mentioned that monies for utilities for the pallet shelters could be taken from their [Sheltering Silverton] separate grant funds.

Chair Palmer brought up meeting in person, and where everyone stands on that. He also addressed the public education component (related to mental health concerns discussed earlier in the meeting), and how that relates to meeting in person. Members continued on with the discussion, with an exchange of various thoughts and ideas.

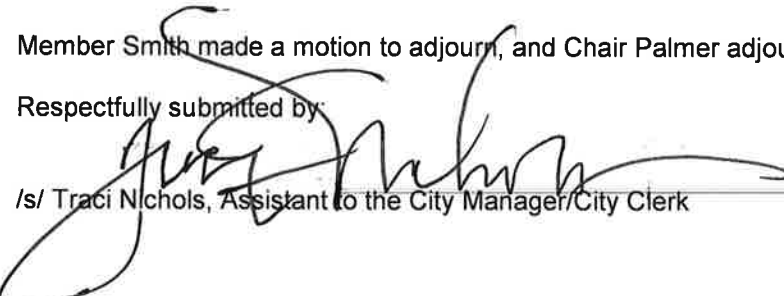
V. TASK FORCE UPDATES

Member Smith requested an update on the cottages at St. Edwards. Member Burdine-Rea indicated they were aiming for a May start date, in having women in the cottages. Chair Palmer asked if there's expected to be a public information launch when the cottages become occupied. Member Burdine-Rea stated they had hoped to run an Our Town article.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Member Smith made a motion to adjourn, and Chair Palmer adjourned the meeting at 7:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:


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