

Central Kitsap Community Council

September 7, 2022

Meeting Minutes

Present:

Council Members: David Emmons, Jim Aho, Monica Downen, Mark Hughes, Steve Fabry, Amy Lawrence, Pete Wimmer, Angie Sell

Commissioner(s): Ed Wolfe

Presenters: Community Forum

County Staff: Katharine Shaffer, Policy Analyst (in attendance, non-presenter) and Eric Baker, Policy Manager

Meeting called to order at 1700 hours

Motion to approve minutes and agenda as presented.

Motioned by Monica Downen

Seconded: Steve Fabry

Motion carried

Commissioner Wolfe's Update –

What we want tonight is a community conversation – this is one of the first community conversations. The commissioners want you to know they are all supportive. There are processes we must maneuver through to take care of the community.

Introduction of Jarrod Moran who is a passionate guy who run our HEART program and is out on the ground.

Nadine Dockendorf new student representative with CK

Forum Notes:

Jarrod Moran – Kitsap Community Resources a great team to work with it's a Team Effort.

Formed after new case law and CDC recommendations during pandemic not to displace encampment. Funding authorized for emergency hotel program and long-term plans to fund new supportive housing

Implementing the unauthorized encampment policy. Access encampments and response plans. Advisory group made of community members and county staff. Prioritize order of encampments and what resources are available.

Process: Determine Parcel Ownership -> Access encampment and write report on finding -> Develop a plan of action with heart team -> Implement response plan -> Coordinate outreach services and resources.

Other processes: mapping encampments working to create a "by name list" of people living outside and coordinating WSDOT and rights of way.

Most reports are created via Kitsap1 – this is the conduit to make those referrals.

Council Members:

Monica – spoke to awareness of drug use, homelessness and keeping a clean and safe environment.

Right of way safety initiative" – a state pilot program with 5 counties to work on outreach. Unsure if it will expand beyond or if funding will continue to be made available by the legislature.

How many encampments around 20 or so with population between 1-2 to 15

When we work with encampments we don't want to "whack a mole" we want to ensure that there are resources available as well.

Why does it take so long – legal, legislative and wanting to ensure that things are being taken care of

How do you deal with mental health and substance abuse – There are some people who are extremely difficult to help. We try to get stable living so they can then address those bigger issues. We try to build a relationship and assessment

Sheriff a lot of questions about community safety things have shifted to crime and homeless encampments. Veteran's Park got cleared out and then we moved to Silverdale.

Jails in Kitsap County 1/3 of people in jail

The costs are associated with cleanups is the most Expensive part of The process

Mary Earl – Director of Operations for the Clear Creek Trail

The trail is both public and private

Deterrence – depends on the space/place/circumstances... HEART is more focused on response with less on deterrence's (Sheriff Gese has more focus on deterrence)

—Kristen Jewel “we cannot solve this problem until we have decent, affordable housing for everybody” ... until we get to the point where we have far more shelter beds and far more affordable housing, we won't get ahead of it.

A day center is being planned – as the aspect of housing is a key thing. A hotel part is not a solution, we need to have housing. As a community we have to break the stigma of what homeless is Drayton Jackson foundation for homeless and property management

Rick Kuss – wanted to talk about the fentanyl in the parks. What I'm concerned about in the encampment is drug use.

What about people who refuse to use treatment – emergency hotel requires heavy duty case management. The goal is to move out of the hotel and into a stable situation as soon as possible.

Tim Ballot – Wanted to thank for having a meeting and asked about shopping cart removal. The had a volunteer that collected some and returned some.

Are veterans' associates assisting with funding. We have partners with Retstil and housing vouchers specifically available for veterans. There is an indigent veteran's board that works to get housing.

Amanda for the REEL team – the biggest barrier is housing. We've had several people go to DETOX once they are stable. The community needs to be a part of the solution as well.

A conversation about regulation and oversight for the houses. A community member spoke about increase in crime and drug use around transitional houses. Doug Washburn is willing to reach out.

Tom Pincoat – General question about the hotel purchase and is there a spot we could put an RV park. The county is actively looking at hotel purchases, they don't come up too often. Currently leasing a hotel with over 85 rooms

Josh Hienmen – What would you tell the average citizen that they could do to help with the issue of homelessness. There are not current volunteer opportunities in HEART, but other organizations. There is a brochure called "How to help the homeless". Homelessness is the result of several systems breaking down.

Q: Is information that is being taken in being used for research purposes to figure out what is working and what is not? Are folks more from inside or outside the county? It's great to hear from people who have experienced this firsthand and their voice is important as part of the solution. Lot of research on the topic of homelessness recently. A large piece is the nonprofit community who makes this possible. Some research is done of the status of the last permanent place you lived. Vast majority are from Kitsap County or had connections to the county that brought them here.

As it pertains to the clear creek trail we're focusing on the dog park area and making those connections

<https://www.kitsapgov.com/hs/Pages/HH-Housing-and-Homelessness-Landing.aspx>

Partner with Kitsap Public Health that we work with for sewage and needle disposal. There are times we'll put a port-o-potty, but it is a mixed result.

Zoning in unincorporated areas – there is not a lot of zoning for group homes and needs for the unhoused. Is there zoning change that can help fix the problem.

CKCC Ad Hoc Comprehensive Plan Committee

This is currently being worked on it,

Motion to create an ad home to support the 2024 comp plan

Brandon 2nd

Motion passes

Public Comment:

Education of students and have them work on some of these tough community problems. Perhaps this could be project they could work on. Learning how to place utilities and design tiny homes.

Meeting adjourned @ 1923

Motion to adjourn

Steve

Brandon 2nd

Meeting concluded at 1923.