



# Home, Opportunity, Planning, and Equity (HOPE) Advisory Board Meeting Approved Minutes

January 28, 2020 from 4 pm to 7 pm  
500 SW Madison Avenue, Corvallis OR



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**Members Present:** Florence Anderson; Xan Augerot\* (Commissioner, Benton County), Catherine Biscoe; Karyle Butcher; Bruce Butler; Bryan Cotter; Anita Earl; Joel Goodwin; George Grosch; Barbara Hanley; Aleita Hass-Holcombe; Nicole Hobbs; Christina Jancila\* (Business Associate); Charles Maughan\* (Corvallis City Council); Pegge McGuire\*; Jim Moorefield\*; Andrea Myhre; Jan Napack\* (Corvallis City Council); Debora Stevens; Reece Stotsenberg\*; Linda Tucker

**Members Excused:**

**Absent:**

**Guests:** Ari Wagner (Consultant); Claire Pate (WHNA); Rick Sumner (Corvallis Parks Advisory Board); Mark Weigs; Allison Hubgard; Bruce Weber; Peggy Lynch; Bruce Butts (IHN); Robert Biscoe; Sherri Gates (Habitat for Humanity).

**Staff Present:** Charlie Fautin and Dannielle Brown (Health Department Co-Directors); Julie Arena (Benton County Health, HOPE Program Coordinator); Paula Felipe (Benton County Public Health, recorder).

\*Executive Board Members.

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- I. **Welcome and Introductions:** Julie Arena hung a new banner that lists the Agreements and Culture and gave welcoming remarks, including an overview of agenda topics and provided 10 minutes for public comments.
  
- II. **Overview of Process:** Review past work and develop priorities and rank objectives to move forward. By the next meeting, Julie and Ari will review the inputs and recommendations and then combine and synthesize them while making sure not to duplicate efforts, and then finalize the recommendations.
  
- III. **Public Comments (limited to 10 minutes).** *Requests to comment were received prior to the meeting.*
  - The first speaker talked about people living in the tree farm and said neighbors living close to the church property have some misgivings about the encampment now because the church has not vetted campers on their property. The speaker said he was almost assaulted while walking his dogs in the area, and the police have a record of this incident. He said the situation is a dramatic change from what they had been told and feels the church acted in bad faith.
  - The second speaker provided a letter of concern and represents a neighborhood association that includes 500 homes north of Highway 34 and south of the Railroad tracks. The speaker said there has been an uptick in illegal activity and neighbors are being impacted and concerned. There was a violent assault and a neighbor said somebody tried to break into their house. This speaker said these issues with the tree farm have gotten out of hand, and while the city and county are in charge of making decisions, they should be actively engaged in getting input from the community.
  - The third speaker said there was nothing more to add and that she concurred with

the previous speakers' comments.

- The fourth speaker said he has ideas about how to house people without destroying the earth. He referenced global warming and the UN report warning of 1 billion extinct species. He said the key is to look at buildings that are already empty such as office buildings and stores located close to grocery stores and bus lines. We could reuse, repurpose, and recycle those buildings and not continue to develop on undeveloped land, he said, adding we are supposed to be good stewards of the earth.
- The fifth speaker lives on the other side of West Hills and is concerned for the safety of the neighborhood, including fires and criminal activity. She said there was a felon arrested out of Eugene with unlawful possession of a firearm. She thought this was a temporary location but steps are being taken to make it more enduring such as electrical hook up, water lines.
- The sixth speaker encouraged members to attend legislative sessions in Salem citing additional dollars provided for shelters and bills related to rental assistance.

Ari and Julie thanked the speakers and indicated there will be other opportunities to engage in collective problem solving. Karyle Butcher added she felt the speakers were asking for help in solving issues and were not angry or unkind in their approach and she really appreciated that and hope we continue to work on solving problems in that manner.

- IV. Bylaws: Two Technical Updates:** The board decided to post the meeting minutes on the HOPE website within 7 days after the board approves of them. And, the bylaws will reflect that they elected two co-chairs.
- V. Approval of the Minutes. MOTION** was made to approve the December 9, 2019 minutes. *Discussion:* Proposed edit to change the word “timeless” to “timelines.” **MOTION** made to approve the Minutes as amended; seconded; **MOTION** passed unanimously. These Approved Minutes will be posted on the HOPE website.
- VI. Selection of Co-Chairs.** Two people have volunteered to be co-chairs: Jim Moorefield and Reece Stotsenberg, who gave a brief introduction. Reece is married and the couple has 8-year old twins. He is a long-time resident of Corvallis and has much experience with people who are homeless. He believes Benton County and the City of Corvallis could develop programs that serve as a model for the State of Oregon. Jim Moorefield is retired with a background in helping people who are homeless. He opened a men’s shelter in the 1980s and looks forward to helping HOPE by facilitating the meetings that get everyone involved as a group. He also looks forward to serving on the executive committee to serve as an influence on our local governments. He wants to end homelessness and make sure everyone who wants a home has one. *Discussion:* Is anyone else interested in serving as a co-chair? No one responded.
- MOTION** was made by Florence Anderson to approve Jim Moorefield and Reece Stotsenberg to serve as co-chairs; Seconded; **MOTION** passed unanimously.
- VII. Presentation to Review Work Done to Date:** (Ari Wagner) We will review the work and make priorities and add inputs. So, we are not starting from square one. A lot of work has already been done, such as the 10 year plan and update which has not yet been approved by the City and County. **Main areas of focus:** 1. **Prevention** (strategies and assistance to keep people from

becoming homeless); **2. Behavioral Health** (services and treatment for people with mental health and substance use disorders.); **3. Comprehensive Care Coordination with Centralized data system** – access to case management, centralized data system to support assessment, and transitions among providers and housing options); **4. Housing Supply** – expand supply and availability of places to live with rents that are affordable to different populations; **5. Emergency Shelter** – permanent year round facility that provides temporary shelter to homeless households or specific populations and does not require occupants to sign leases or occupancy agreements; **6. Temporary Shelter** – temporary or transitional shelter (legal camp site, car camping, micro-shelter) for those awaiting placement in permanent housing. May have services to all clients or specific populations. Does not require an occupancy/lease agreement, may require a code of conduct agreement; **7. Resource and Navigation center** – a safe space with a variety of services for people experiencing homelessness or housing/food insecurity; **8. Permanent Supported Housing** – permanent affordable (or subsidized) housing for special populations that includes support, such as case management, health/behavioral health care, supported employment, etc.; and **9. Safety & Livability** – create a safe environment for all, and a community where others want to visit/live.

- VIII. Small Group Discussion to Add to Priorities.** After each of the 9 areas of focus have been reviewed, small group discussion took place to create objectives and to recommend or modify existing ones. No need for a consensus to make recommendations and you will rate them and share the top three.
- IX. Add or Amend Priorities Based on Board Feedback.** Each of the 9 areas was discussed and additions listed on the white board.
- X. Board Comments:** Is there a subject that you didn't see mentioned? Jim said a key theme is advocacy, such as monitoring and responding to what is happening in the legislatures in Salem, Washington D.C., local city and county government. Educational and outreach is also another piece. So another category has been added: Education, advocacy, outreach, and communication. *Julie typed in additional inputs during Round 2 while reviewing each of the focus areas.*
- XI. Next Steps:** Ari and Julie will review inputs and ranking and combine them. They will conduct background work and see what has already been done and what is currently in place. Then objectives can be prioritized. We do not want to duplicate our efforts. An action plan will be developed for each item that includes resources, costs, and the recommendations will be made to city and county. Question raised about the voice/role of the homeless on the board process and decisions? This will be an agenda item for next meeting. Members concluded with positive feedback and several agreed this was a great beginning to the process moving forward.
- XII. Meeting Adjourned** at 7:21 pm.