



CITY OF MILPITAS HOMELESSNESS TASK FORCE

MINUTES

5:00 PM – 6:20 PM

Thursday, June 10, 2021

Virtual Meeting/Teleconference

1. **Welcome/Call to Order** – Chair William Lam called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM.

2. **Pledge of Allegiance**

Chair William Lam led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. **Roll Call**

Task Force Members Present: Chair William Lam, Vice Chair Sanae Alexander, Ferdie Centeno, Jeremy Bevington, Ricky Davis, Norma Morales, Barbara Jo Navarro, Tingna Xu

Task Force Members Absent: Martha Lamdin, Lisa Moreno

Staff Present: Building Safety and Housing: Housing Manager Adam Marcus, City Attorney's Office: Martin de los Angeles

4. **Approval of Agenda**

Motion to approve June 10, 2021 agenda

Motion/Second: Ricky Davis/Barbara Jo Navarro

Motion carried by a vote of Ayes: 8 Noes: 0 Abstain: 0

5. **Approval of Minutes**

Motion to approve May 13, 2021 minutes

Motion/Second: Barbara Jo Navarro/Ricky Davis

Motion carried by a vote of Ayes: 8 Noes: 0 Abstain: 0

6. **Public Forum**

No comments.

7. **Business Items**

a. **Staff update (Adam Marcus):**

Staff liaison Adam Marcus commented on the 5/27 Main Street community meeting focused on housing, the 6/3 Housing Subcommittee meeting, the 6/10 County Unhoused Task Force meeting, and that staff will share the April data on homeless outreach and mobile shower/laundry at the City Council meeting on 6/15/2021. The City's Economic Development Office is conducting a survey to gather ideas for workforce training, assessments, career navigation, and counseling. The survey closes on 6/15/2021 and can be accessed at: www.ci.milpitas.ca.gov/C19Workforce

b. Discuss goals, objectives, and program areas where the Task Force wishes to focus its efforts (Chair Lam)

- **Member Morales:** Asked to look at immigration because most McKinney-Vento families don't have paperwork to show they are able to rent a low-income home.
- **Member Navarro:** Asked to prioritize the categories for the task force and focus on one to three categories rather than doing more.
- **Member Centeno:** Asked to combine the temporary housing category with checks and balances.
- **Vice Chair Alexander:** Asked to combine the homeless help center category with the process for outreach and referrals category.
- **Chair Lam:** Described five ideas for the task force to focus on:
 1. **Outreach and Community communication** - MyMilpitas App, City webpage, Homeless Help Center.
 2. **Work program** - Encourage self-reliance with gift cards, food vouchers, cash, etc. for cleaning-up outdoor living areas, parks, creeks, graffiti. Partner with local business to provide job training, internships, and jobs in exchange for tax-credit or awards.
 3. **Temporary housing** - Warehouse conversion, prefab units, tiny homes, safe parking for mobile homes, etc.
 4. **Prevention Program** - Identify and assist at-risk residents, assist at risk-youth, assist MUSD McKinney-Vento households.
 5. **Accountability and Community Safety** - Setup oversight committee for the City's homelessness program spending, increase MPD patrol frequency near housing sites, install cameras near the Hillview Court parking area.
- **Vice Chair Alexander:** Described two ideas for the task force to focus on:
 - Create a temporary shelter for McKinney-Vento students. The Church on Kennedy Drive and Wool Drive has been vacant for 10 years. Once the Mil on Main and Sango Court are open, give those families priority. The program could last 12-18 months and would require collaboration between the City, church, and nonprofits. The families would pay some of the rent, the rest would come from state or federal grants.
 - Create a resource center. There is a resource center at St. Mary's in Oakland. The shelter helps residents get back on their feet. There is a curfew, shower, laundry, 3 hot meals per day. A similar resource center could be created in Milpitas. It would need social services and counselors.
- **Member Xu** described one idea for the task force to focus on:

- Partner with local business to provide job training, internships, and jobs in exchange for tax-credit or awards. Provide more local training and job opportunities. Learning more skills could help unhoused residents to be independent in the future and to earn stable income and to contribute to building our city. During the pandemic, businesses suffered and had a difficult time hiring. This could be a win-win solution for both.
- **Chair Lam:** Asked if we should focus on two programs; temporary housing and prevention.
- **Member Navarro:** Mentioned that temporary housing is a high priority and that we should copy other successful cities and hopefully Santa Clara County can help facilitate it. Said we need a place for our homeless residents to be temporarily housed, safe parking, or an encampment that is patrolled. That was her highest priority.
- **Member Davis:** Commented that we are talking a lot about programs and suggested talking first about what to focus on before discussion specific programs.
- **Member Centeno:** Commented there should be oversight to ensure homelessness service providers and contractors are providing the services we are paying for.

c. Working in subcommittees (Chair Lam):

- **Chair Lam:** Asked Martin de los Angeles from the City Attorney’s office why the task force cannot participate in more than one subcommittee. Martin responded that if there is overlap between groups, information might be shared between the groups and that would constitute a quorum. For that reason, the task force should avoid member overlap.
- **Chair Lam:** Commented that some task force members want to participate in more than one subcommittee. He also asked if the task force could meet in July.
- **Member Morales:** Asked if we can circulate a live “Google” spreadsheet and edit it between meetings. The City Attorney representative said no, that would count as a serial meeting and would violate the Brown Act.
- **Member Xu:** Asked if task force members can send ideas to the staff and have staff send them to the committee. The City Attorney representative indicated it could be a Brown Act violation in certain circumstances. [Staff Note: In general, informational resources can be shared by the staff liaison between meetings, but this sharing cannot create a dialogue between task force members or share views, comments, or concerns on task force agenda items.]
- **Motion to form three sub-committees.**
 - Motion/Second: Tinga Xu Vice Chair Alexander
 - Motion carried by a vote of Ayes: 7 Noes: 0 Abstain: 1
- **Motion to approve the following three subcommittee groups with a report back at the August 12, 2021 task force meeting.**
 - **Work program** - Encourage self-reliance with gift cards, food vouchers, cash, etc. for cleaning-up outdoor living areas, parks, creeks, graffiti. Partner with local business to provide job training, internships, and jobs in exchange for tax-credit or awards.
 - **Temporary housing** - Warehouse conversion, prefab units, tiny homes, safe parking for mobile homes, etc.

- **Prevention Program** - Identify and assist at-risk residents, assist at-risk youth, assist MUSD McKinney-Vento households.
- Motion/Second: Tinga Xu/Ferdie Centeno
- Motion carried by a vote of Ayes: 8 Noes: 0 Abstain: 0

▪ **Motion to assign the following subcommittee members to the following groups:**

	Work Program	Temporary Housing	Prevention
Chair William Lam	x		
Vice Chair Sanae Alexander		x	
Ferdie Centeno			x
Jeremy Bevington	x		
Ricky Davis		x	
Normal Morales			x
Barbara Jo Navarro		x	
Tingna Xu	x		
Lisa Moreno	Absent	Absent	Absent
Martha Lamdin	Absent	Absent	Absent

- Motion/Second: Tinga Xu/Ferdie Centeno
- Motion carried by a vote of Ayes: 8 Noes: 0 Abstain: 0

▪ **Motion to allow staff liaison to communicate with the two absent task force members (Lisa Moreno and Martha Lamdin) and ask them to select one of the three subcommittees to join.**

- Motion/Second: Barbara Jo Navarro/Jeremy Bevington
- Motion carried by a vote of Ayes: 8 Noes: 0 Abstain: 0

- The staff liaison will share contact information so the sub-committee members can meet in June and July.

d. Business items for next meeting on August 12, 2021 @ 5 PM. There is no meeting in July. (Chair Lam)

No action was taken.

8. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 6:21 PM.