



MEETING NOTES

Cloverdale Homelessness Community Advisory Group Regular Meeting No. 13

Date: Tuesday March 8, 2022

Time: 1:30 – 3:00 p.m.

Location: Cloverdale Regional Library
401 N. Cloverdale Blvd, Cloverdale, CA 95425

Meeting Convener: Chair Lands convened the meeting at 1:30 p.m.

Present:

Chair Todd Lands, Cloverdale Mayor

Vice Chair Joe Palla, Cloverdale Councilmember

David Kelley, Cloverdale City Manager

Kevin Thompson, Cloverdale Assistant City Manager/CD Director

Jason Ferguson, Cloverdale Police Chief

Update on Local Homelessness Activities (Alexander Valley Health, Wallace House & Reach for Home)

Colleen Halbohm, Wallace House, reported they are tracking to get everyone placed in Cherry Creek Village by middle to late May. In response to resident Joan Tillman, she stated they would have a property manager on site. The Housing Authority has restricted eligibility to households that meet chronically homeless eligibility requirements. The majority of their residents will be families. She outlined the background check in response to Vice Chair Palla. HUD conducts property management inspections. Chair Lands expressed concern about eligibility of applicants from throughout the County because of the voucher program requirements. Colleen Halbohm stated vouchers are needed to provide case management support. The chronically homeless that they will be dealing with are not falling into the category of severe mental illness, because Wallace House does not have that capacity.

Mayor Lands wondered if there is funding available for people before they become chronically homeless. Colleen Halbohm stated additional State funding will soon be available. Additional affordable housing stock is needed to match the funding availability.

Neena Hanchett, Chamber of Commerce, offered to assist with the open house planned for Cherry Creek Village.

Update on Point in Time Count

Colleen Halbohm reported on the homeless count on behalf of Margaret Sluyk, Executive Director of Reach for Home. The number was under 30, which is not overwhelming for case management. Mayor Lands stated there were only three people they did not know when counting the 30 homeless. About six of the 30 counted were from within City limits.

Update on Police Response to Homelessness

Police Chief Ferguson reported there were 21 homeless related calls last month, and 45 contacts in the Plaza. Enforcing the curfew in the Plaza and parks has been helpful. They are back to doing early morning patrols and seeing less individuals sleeping in front of businesses. Chief Ferguson reported on the business watch meetings.

Jody Kane, Alexander Valley Health, stated that she is working with a handful of patients. She asked about instituting a response team. Chief Ferguson stated they have attempted that unsuccessfully. He would work with Jody to determine if there are components from north County that Cloverdale could utilize.

Vice Chair Palla spoke about people sleeping in the dugouts in the parks.

Chair Lands referred a complaint. He also asked about people congregating at the bus stop. City Manager Kelley responded they could consider removing the bench from the bus stop. Chair Lands would like to talk about seating alternative seating at a future agenda item. Melanie Hall, Senior Center, spoke of the success of an alternative meeting place for farmworkers who had been congregating for work opportunities at the Plaza.

Vice Chair Palla suggested an ad hoc meeting to consider alternative appropriate gathering spaces that would include restroom facilities.

In response to Colleen Halbohm, City Manager Kelley stated he would reach out to Behavioral Health about including Stephen Sotomayor on the agenda distribution list. Vice Chair Palla would like to include Plaza representatives.

Joan Tilden cited problems with the open area around the football field and the library that attract people who are disturbing the peace.

Adjournment

Mayor Lands adjourned the meeting at 2:40 p.m. to the next regular meeting date of March 8, 2022.