



AGENDA
Cloverdale Homelessness Community Advisory Group
Meeting No. 3

Date: Tuesday, February 11, 2020

Time: 5:00-7:30 pm

Location: Cloverdale Senior Center
 311 N. Main Street.
 Cloverdale, CA 95425

Meeting Convener: City of Cloverdale

TIME	Topics
5:00-5:15	Welcome from Mayor Wolter and Councilmember Brigham <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introductions of Community Advisory Group Members
5:15-5:30	Brief Overview of Meeting No. 2: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vision for Success • Guiding Principles, Goals and Performance Measures in the Framework
5:30-7:20	Review of Draft Strategic Plan Goals #1-7: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identification of major strategies (actions) to reduce the number of people experiencing homelessness in Cloverdale (Goal #1) 2. Prevent and mitigate public health and safety impacts stemming from homelessness (Goal #2). 3. Consider Programs to prevent homeless among residents (Goal #3) 4. Outreach and Supportive Services to homeless individuals and families in need of assistance (Goal #4) 5. Increase community awareness of the homeless initiative (Goal #5), 6. Advocate for legislative and program to strengthen Cloverdale efforts (Goal #6) 7. Develop governance infrastructure to facilitate implementation of the Strategic Plan (Goal #7). For Goal #1 - 7, determine the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting actions to take to implement the goals • Populations to target for each action • Organizations that need to be involved to provide or support these actions • Resources needed to implement actions • Timeline and Performance metrics: Identify timeframe for action steps and how the success of each action will be measured).
7:20-7:25	Next steps: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Next Meeting: March 10, 2020 - 1:00-3:30 pm • Cloverdale Fire District – Meeting Room
7:25	Public Comments



Cloverdale Homelessness Community Advisory Group Meeting No. 2

Meeting: January 14, 2019

Tuesday, 1:00-3:30 pm

Cloverdale Fire District Meeting Room

451 S. Cloverdale Blvd.

Cloverdale, CA 95425

DISCUSSION NOTES

Mayor Wolter called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. Following introduction of the CAG advisory group, Mr. Kelley indicated that Governor Newsom has prioritized homeless action and the state has mandated that cities and counties implement a homeless action plan for their communities or face lawsuits. Therefore, it is critical that the City takes action on the matter. Mr. Kelley asked the attendees to express their vision for addressing the matter in the community. Mr. Kelley envisions the ultimate goal to be a decline in homelessness with permanent housing and hopes to identify specific actions to realize the vision.

Discussion ensued and various participants recognized that the problem is multifaceted and thus the solutions and actions must also be multifaceted. The stigma of homelessness is not a "one size fits all" matter. Degrees of homeless situations were noted: First, there are the families that "unwilling" homeless – those are down on their luck that fell behind bills and found themselves in the situation. Secondly, there is the "unaware" homeless faction – these people fall under the mentally ill or sick category and are unaware of how to care for themselves. Lastly, there is the "unable" or "unwilling" group – here we find those individuals who do not want help and do not want to be told what to do. Due to these differences, there are different strategies that need to be done to deal with the situations. The issue is not one-size-fits-all and everyone agreed on that.

Mayor Wolter mentioned that the count for 2020 will take place on January 31st, and that all the cities do it the same day for accuracy purposes.

Blake Manning, substance abuse counselor from Alexander Valley Health Care, commented that he works five days a week (Monday, Tues and Friday 8:00 – 5:00, Wednesday from 9:00 to 6:00 and Thursday from 9:30 to 6:30) and can assist with medical treatment.

Mr. Velasquez, representing St. Peters Church, explained that on Tuesday mornings at the church, people can come in and get clothing, money and food. Resource providers such as Alexander Valley Wellness and Wallace House are also available. Mr. Velasquez invited the public to come by and see the event. Mr. Velasquez noted that

more and more seniors, families and disabled people are showing up. The church receives donations and support from various agencies. Mental health professional assistance is critically needed and around 60-70% of homeless are mentally impaired. Veterans are also not aware of the services that are available.

Mayor Wolter wants to see that panhandling, human waste on the streets, trashing the river and harassment of residents is stopped- but in a humane manner.

A member of the public commented that preventive measures are needed, as many families today are struggling to make ends meet. Lack of evening accessibility to services and resources makes it impossible for working people to be involved or attend meeting – and the food bank is only open during daytime hours. Many people had savings depleted by the PSPS. Many were affected by the fires and insurance has run out and the resource organizations are at capacity.

Todd Lands, School Board, stated that in his research he has identified that 70% of the local homeless are not from Cloverdale, and the majority of them are addicts. There are around ten that he stated want to be helped.

Jenny Chamberlain, 4th District representative from Supervisor Gore's office, explained the 9th District Circuit Court decision of Martin vs. the City of Boise in which it was determined that if no shelters are available in a city, people can camp and it is illegal to enforce eviction. Chief Ferguson commented that since Cloverdale has no shelter, they cannot evict or arrest people living at the river unless they are seen committing a crime. A Sonoma County Sheriff Deputy added that the political climate state has seen many changes and thus many property and drug crimes reduced from felonies to misdemeanors, which means that subjects cannot be held as long. An exception to the district ruling is that if people are found to be sleeping in businesses during daytime hours, then law enforcement can take action.

A citizen complained about dumping of trash in the river. Chief Ferguson stated that the police actively patrol the river, but unfortunately, offenders need to be caught in the act. The plaza area is also actively patrolled and citations and arrests have been made.

Lieutenant Tim Duke, Sonoma County Sheriff, commented that law enforcement is only one part of addressing the problem and arrests can only be made if there is probable cause of outstanding warrants. He recommended establishing a shelter and wraparound services, and creating a plan of progression. Once established, law enforcement can take more action. This would only apply to camping, and substance abuse is another matter. The average inmate costs \$170 a day to incarcerate and this places burden on the budget.

Chris Brokate, Clean River Alliance, agreed that incarceration is not cost effective. Housing is needed. Out of the 3,200 homeless in the County there are only 750 beds. Many have been on waiting lists for years. It is a human problem. Clean River Alliance actively cleans up trash at the river.

Coleen Halbohm, Wallace House, added that those that fall into the addict category are beyond choice. Those people need a structured environment with boundaries and some law enforcement present. If someone was found to have Alzheimers, Adult Protective

Services would be involved, but addicts are treated differently. Ms. Halbohm supports a vision of triage in which Adult Protective Services, conservatorships, and legal system work together to find a way to help those who cannot help themselves. So far, APS only helps those who are 65 years and older.

Another citizen mentioned that those criminals “unwilling” that are destroying the town need to be enforced. She claimed that there are beds available that people refuse to use. Some in the crowd disagreed about the availability of beds, and stated that people don’t want to leave Cloverdale.

Deborah Howell, Alexander Valley Wellness, agreed that a shelter is needed. She seems many homeless from the community and it is everyone’s problem. There are funds available to help with a shelter and it is not solely a law enforcement problem.

Mayor Wolter thanked the attendees for their input hopes to create a clear plan of action and work together for long term solutions. There is a lot of data available. Safety and wellbeing for all are a priority and permanent supportive housing is a goal. Community involvement will be critical to the success of the endeavor. Homeless people are unique individuals. Many have not chosen to be homeless.

Summary from today’s meeting:

Concurrence that we need a shelter in town.

Homeless needs to be addressed in degrees and the individuals have unique circumstances

It is not a crime to be homeless

It is not solely a law enforcement issue.

Addiction is a disease and intervention is primary. The solution needs to be compassion with rules

Look at other jurisdictions who have successfully vetted issue to see what they have done.

Deal with the problem here and not send elsewhere

