



City of Corona

400 S. Vicentia Ave.
Corona, CA 92882

Minutes - Final

2019 Homelessness Resources Committee

VICE MAYOR JIM STEINER
COUNCIL MEMBER YOLANDA CARRILLO

Wednesday, March 20, 2019

3:00 PM

Council Board Room

1. Call To Order

The meeting was called to order by Vice Mayor Jim Steiner at 3:10 p.m. In addition to the Committee Members, the following individuals were in attendance:

Michele Nissen, Acting City Manager
George Johnstone, Police Chief
Tom Moody, General Manager
David Montgomery-Scott, Library & Recreation Svcs. Dir.
Abigail Schellberg, Library & Recreation Svcs. Asst. Dir.
Jason Lass, Recreation Svcs. Manager
Naomi Ramirez, Management Svcs. Asst.
Ryan Cortez, Economic Development Coordinator

Others Present:

Karen Alexander, Planning & Housing Commission
Michele Wentworth, Parks & Recreation Commission

2. Public Comments

None.

3. Agenda Items

A. [19-0273](#)

Discussion Concerning City Park - Potential Mitigation Measures and Options.

(Action: Information & Discussion)

Mr. Ryan Burnardo, Resident, commented on the issue of homelessness and the negative effects it has on businesses and residents.

Several residents shared with the committee concerns they have regarding homelessness and potential health and safety issues.

Vice Mayor Jim Steiner addressed some of the issues regarding homelessness in Corona. He noted that there needs to be long-term and short-term solutions that need to be addressed not only in Corona but by

the county and state as well. Vice Mayor Steiner noted that Corona has limited resources and that the city must be mindful of laws and regulations on what can or cannot be done regarding homelessness. This includes moving people from encampment, because once they are moved they need to have a shelter to be relocated to.

Council Member Yolanda Carrillo noted that they have met with several agencies and groups that run shelters to discuss the services being provided and finding the best fit for the city and its needs. Council Member Carrillo commented on the regulations on how and when homeless can be moved, which could include providing transportation to and from a shelter and providing a bed to sleep in for the night. Council Member Carrillo noted these are some factors that need to be reviewed and would like to be able to provide services that are needed as soon as possible.

Mr. George Johnstone, Chief of Police, provided a brief update on the Ninth Circuit, which has ruled that criminalizing the status of being "homeless," or criminalizing the "unavoidable consequences" of that status, such as sitting, lying or sleeping on sidewalks and other public grounds, constitutes cruel and unusual punishment, in violation of the Eighth Amendment. Chief Johnstone noted this ruling directly affects enforcement of city or state codes related to camping on public grounds. However, it does not decriminalize illegal activity and the Police Department will continue to address resident concerns, enforce laws and provide services to the community.

Council Member Carrillo commented on the upcoming Alcoa Dike project and the encampments in the surrounding area of the project location. Once construction of the projects begins the encampment will be cleared out and many homeless will relocate back into the city parks. Council Member Carrillo noted that to relocate those moving into the parks, there needs to be services available for them.

Mr. Steve Nolan, Resident of El Cerrito, commented on the Ninth Circuit ruling and the restrictions it has or does not have on being able to enforce city or state code regarding camping and homeless.

Ms. Vonya Quarles, Starting Over Inc, provided insight on funding programs that are available for the renovation of building that will be used to house the homeless. Ms. Quarles inquired about potentially outsourcing services that will be provided. Ms. Michele Nissen, Acting City Manager, noted that they are not looking at just one outside agency, but it will be more of a collaborative effort of multiple agencies and stakeholders to address the issue of homelessness.

Council Member Carrillo noted that they are working towards obtaining a building/ area to use as homeless shelter in the near future. She also stated that it will need to be a joint effort from the City of Corona, Riverside County and community members.

Mr. Joe Giehm, Resident, inquired about the Orange County Rescue Mission Shelter, its current occupants and plans of potential use of the building. Council Member Carrillo noted that the current providers offer several options for occupants, which include moving to different facilities or continuing for the remainder of the program.

Residents inquired about the Point in Time Count funding and the allocation of funds. Council Member Carrillo clarified that the city needs to meet requirements and must be providing services in order to receive funds. Staff responded that the official Point in Time Count numbers will be released in April. Staff noted that City Net will be providing an update at the City Council meeting of March 20th.

B. [19-0274](#)

Discuss and Review City Owned Land/properties and Parcels Owned by Other Agencies.
(Action: Information & Discussion)

Council Member Carrillo requested that staff present city owned land/properties and parcels owned by other agencies. Council Member Carrillo noted the committee is reviewing and discussing the possibility of a homeless shelter in Corona. She provided a brief overview of shelter regulations and noted they would like to be able to provide services that are needed as soon as possible.

Mr. Ryan Cortez, Economic Development Coordinator, gave a brief presentation on the status of current city controlled properties as well as property deemed to be surplus by Riverside County Transportation Committee. The committee members noted they are exploring every opportunity and site for a future shelter.

Ms. Sherry Sanchez, Resident, inquired about a potential area by Butterfield Park to be used as temporary camp for those at City Park to relocate to. Mr. Tom Moody, General Manager, noted that the area that was mentioned by the resident is owned by the Army Core of Engineers and do not allow for property managers to lease out that land for encampment purposes.

Mr. Joe Morgan, Resident, inquired about the properties purchased by the Planning and Housing Authority as potential use for homeless shelter use. Staff responded that the purchase was made with funds that have

limitations and regulations on what the land can and cannot be used for. If changes are to be made of land use, they will need to use separate funds to repurchase the land.

- C. [19-0275](#) Update from the SWOT Analysis Meeting on March 11, 2019.
(Action: Information & Discussion)

Vice Mayor Steiner provided a brief summary of the SWOT analysis and asset meeting held on March 11, 2019. He noted that the intent of the meeting was to establish stakeholders and resources currently being provided. Staff is currently gathering information and will be briefed on results on a later date. He noted that the goal of the SWOT is to identify those stakeholders to create an advisory committee.

- D. [19-0276](#) Update about the Continuum of Care meeting on February 27, 2019.
(Action: Information & Discussion)

Ms. Michele Nissen, Acting City Manager, provided the committee with an update about the Continuum of Care meeting on February 27, 2019. Ms. Nissen noted that in prior years the City of Corona was not participating or attending these meetings. She has been appointed to represent the city with Lieutenant Jim Auck as her alternate. Ms. Nissen continued with her update and noted that the county is currently going through an overhaul of the organization and its operations. Ms. Nissen noted that the City of Corona is now a participant of the Continuum of Care and this will allow for Corona to gain voting rights. Ms. Nissen provided a brief update on the process on the Point in Time Count that was conducted this past January, as well as potential updates on several forms/applications and a merge of the CES & HMIS system.

Ms. Michele Wentworth, Parks & Recreation Commission, commented on the process of fund allocation and the Continuum of Care participation. Ms. Nissen provided further insight on the fund allocation and application process for all entities and services. Council Member Carrillo noted that a plan needs to be created and implanted, providing details on how the city is or will use the funds. There needs to be track record of services being provided in order to apply for funding.

4. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 p.m.