
Health Needs and Human Services Commission Minutes

Thursday, January 14, 2021 1:30 p.m.
Harrigan Centennial Hall / Teleconference

Commission Members: Charlie Woodcock, Loyd Platson,
Doug Osborne, Denise Ewing, Cecilia Dumouchel
Crystal Duncan (Assembly Liaison)

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Woodcock called the meeting to order at 1:34 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present: Charlie Woodcock (teleconference), Loyd Platson (teleconference),
Doug Osborne (teleconference), Cecilia Dumouchel (teleconference)
Commissioners Absent: Denise Ewing (unexcused)
Assembly Liaison: Crystal Duncan

III. CORRESPONDENCE / AGENDA CHANGES

None.

IV. PERSONS TO BE HEARD

None.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. December 10, 2020

M - Platson / S - Osborne moved to approve the December 10, 2020 minutes as written. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

VI. REPORTS

Chair – Woodcock reported YAS was working on several issues with COVID. Many delayed admissions and trying to find ways to serve youth.

Commissioners – Osborne reminded of the upcoming health challenge through SEARHC and wondered how to fill the vacant seats. Platson reported on Sitka Counseling and the HOPE Coalition, noting they were putting together data from the surveys. He updated the Commission on the bench program.

Assembly Liaison – Duncan reported on the Climate Action Task Force appointments.

City Staff – None.

Other: None.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

B. Food waste, food security, and composting

Osborne noted a project he was working on of care for the environment. He would be meeting with state and other partners next week. He brought up the topic of waste at events and thought to have guidelines to follow.

C. Address substance misuse especially regarding drinking in youth

Platson would keep the Commission posted on the final draft of the reports from the

surveys.

D. Support creation of a collective impact board

Osborne updated that the first Thursday of the month a group met which could form into a collective impact board stating they were currently focused on racial equity. He stated that members were from UAS, SEARHC, Sitka Counseling, SAFV, Youth Advocates, and the Community Land Trust. Platson said he would like to see more people involved. Henshaw would send out information once received from Osborne and Platson.

E. Public Policy (Three-foot bike clearance)

Osborne reached out to Knox as the lone sponsor of the ordinance that was in the legal department. Osborne relayed that the state may be looking at implementing this policy, but the timeline was unknown and most likely a long way out. He thought a good process would be to find a second sponsor, take it back to the Police and Fire Commission, then send it back to the legal department with a possible introduction to the Assembly after budget season. He felt that anything with walking and biking connected to affordability. He and Platson explained the resistance from the Police and Fire Commission.

F. 2021 Goals

Osborne felt that health was so broad, but if there were areas to support of ongoing interests that would be great. He suggested a community garden, racial or health equity, or a climate change or active transportation (a walkable or bikeable) goal. He suggested looking at the minority health report and the county health ranking website. Woodcock stated the need of capacity, passion, and relevance. He felt the pandemic was the biggest challenge of youth, adults, and the community around them and that a goal could surround vaccinations and the pandemic. Dumouchel noted without funding, it was difficult to make a change and wondered if there were other avenues besides an ordinance. Osborne thought that costs could be expensed after the approval of the Assembly.

Platson felt that the most clear-cut successful goal was with policy looking at what appeared to be the most pressing concerns in the community. He suggested to support a policy for events to have a greater restriction of alcohol and gave the example of greater barriers and/or monitoring of beer gardens and COVID response/how to mitigate the impacts. He noted some of the pressing issues in the forefront were racial equity and social justice.

Dumouchel suggested a potential goal could be to advocate for vaccine education and demystifying of the untruths of vaccines and gave the example of PSA's from community members that had been vaccinated. She stated she looked online to research information about the under/uninsured and thought to make an effort through education and connecting folks with resources. Woodcock agreed that there was an issue of under/uninsured community members and that education was needed.

Osborne thought for each Commissioner to research before the next meeting and come back with ideas. He didn't want to duplicate efforts.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

None.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Next meeting was scheduled for February 11, 2020 at 1:30 p.m., Harrigan Centennial Hall.

M - Osborne / S - Platson moved to adjourn the meeting. Seeing no objections, the meeting adjourned at 2:54 p.m.

Attest:
Melissa Henshaw, Deputy Clerk