
Health Needs and Human Services Commission Minutes

Thursday, December 10, 2020 1:30 p.m.
Harrigan Centennial Hall / Teleconference

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

I. CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Platson called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present: Loyd Platson (teleconference), Doug Osborne (teleconference), Holly Marban (teleconference – arrived at 1:34 p.m.); Denise Ewing (teleconference – left the meeting at 2:02 p.m.); Cecilia Dumouchel (teleconference)
Commissioners Absent: Charlie Woodcock (excused)
Assembly Liaison: Crystal Duncan (not in attendance)

III. CORRESPONDENCE / AGENDA CHANGES

None.

IV. PERSONS TO BE HEARD

None.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. November 12, 2020

M – Osborne / S – Ewing moved to approve the November 12, 2020 minutes as written. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

VI. REPORTS

Chair – Platson told of a program to create and design benches to put out in front of Harrigan Centennial Hall.

Commissioners – Osborne suggested introductions for the new commissioner. He gave an introduction and update on an upcoming program SEARHC would be hosting in February of a 28-day health goal challenge with weekly prizes for the community. He provided an update on the group for the Baranov statue move. He told of the updated city seal and wondered when items would be replaced. Henshaw relayed that new city flags were ordered, but that she did not know when the replacement of the seal on vehicles would take place. Marban introduced herself and reminded that this would be her last meeting. Ewing introduced herself and stated she had been busy as the Public Health Nurse due to COVID mostly with contract tracing. She stated she was currently working as a vaccine coordinator. Dumouchel introduced herself and told of her interest in health.

City Staff – None.

Assembly Liaison – Not in attendance.

Other: None.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

B. Food waste, food security, and composting

Marban thought there had been a lot of discussion, noted the need for food security, but that this topic hadn't got off the ground. She recommended creating a partnership, someone to take the lead on a community garden stating next steps could be continued conversations at an agency level. She felt that food security was important and was even more so a priority due to COVID. Platson looked at the skate park as an area for a community garden. He thought to have a sloping bank and put in step gardens and could see that as a possibility on the street side of the area.

C. Address substance misuse especially regarding drinking in youth

Platson stated Sitka Counseling had completed a survey conducted with the schools. He went over risk factors, how underaged obtained alcohol, and that most students are not using. He noted they gave out funding for grades for participating and had a good partnership with the schools. He would be putting together reports to disburse among the school, groups, and the community. Marban noted the difference of the parents vs. friend's acceptance of drinking. She wondered if they could have class time and a group conversation with Sitka Counseling as to the reasons of why it isn't cool to drink or why they thought their friends approved or disapproved of drinking. Platson was putting together video spots to put out on social media about reasons why people don't drink. He was also thinking about creating a group of youth to come together to focus around drinking. Platson thought that the alcohol pops were a draw for some. Dumouchel wondered of any mandatory classes to address alcohol use. Platson noted that the health class goes over it some and that he had been looking at a program prior to COVID. Osborne and Platson noted vaping use.

D. Support creation of a collective impact board

Platson reminded that there was the racial equity group that may possibly morph into a collective impact board. Osborne expanded that the racial equity group talked about sharing resources and training at the last meeting. He would like to keep trying to bring people into the group. He thought that the collective impact group could happen face to face after COVID. The next meeting for the racial equity group would be Jan. 7

E. Public Policy (Three-foot bike clearance)

Osborne noted that the ordinance was sent to Duncan and was still in the legal department. Henshaw stated that the legal department had not yet had a chance to review it.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

F. 2021 Goals

Platson asked commissioners how they would like to proceed: keep the same goals, change them, or be more specific. Marban suggested to leave out composting. Henshaw answered to Marban that there was a Climate Action Task Force created by the Assembly on ways to plan for and mitigate impacts of climate change.

Goals discussed were: community garden by Marban and Osborne; recruit/engage youth to be on the commission by Platson and Dumouchel; vaccine campaign against COVID-19 or a way to be part of a campaign or support SEARHC and Public Health by Dumouchel, Marban, and Osborne; support active transportation i.e., reconstruction of Lincoln Street, finishing the Sea Walk, making the community more walk and bike friendly; an Equity Commission to look at policies and/or advise/support racial equity by Osborne.

Dumouchel wondered if it would be better to have specific goals or broad goals. Platson stated historically, there have been both. He leaned more toward having specific goals for better success, but that broad goals allowed for freedom/options. Marban felt that specific goals had more action. Osborne reminded that the goals would go to the Assembly for approval. He said that goals related to municipal policy was a good tack and as an advisory board, the Commission can make policy to make for a healthier and safer community. Platson recommended three goals.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Next meeting was scheduled for January 14, 2020 at 1:30 p.m., Harrigan Centennial Hall.

M - Osborne / S - Marban moved to adjourn the meeting. Seeing no objections, the meeting adjourned at 2:36 p.m.

Attest:
Melissa Henshaw, Deputy Clerk