

CITY CLERK'S RECORD OF MEETING

City Council Homelessness Subcommittee

March 25, 2021

Present: Mayor Pro Tempore Lauren Meister, Councilmember Sepi Shyne, Assistant City Manager Oscar Delgado, Director of Human Services and Rent Stabilization Christof Schroder, Director of Public Safety Kristin Cook, Strategic Initiatives Manager Corri Planck, Social Services Manager David Giugni, Strategic Initiatives Program Administrator Elizabeth Anderson, Social Services Program Administrator Katie Egan, Property Development Manager Brian League, Project Development Administrator Alicen Bartle, and Acting City Clerk Melissa Crowder

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m.

Public Comment

- Victor Omelczenko:
 - Homeless Encampment in Echo Park
 - Project Roomkey in West Hollywood
 - 24-hour bathrooms for our unhoused community members
 - 90-day deadline for the Feasibility Study for Homeless Housing Services RFP
 - Requested an update on the Housing Element Task Force

Item 3.A. Project Development Administrator Alicen Bartle provided an update on the utilization of the City's Affordable Housing Trust Fund for the development of affordable housing units. She discussed revenue sources including in-lieu fees, public benefit payments, and commercial impact fees. She provided an update on completed projects since 2000, cost of affordable housing units and the high cost (cost of land, labor, & density), and development and permit fees.

Mayor Pro Tempore Meister inquired if the City's Affordable Housing Trust Fund dollars could be used to subsidize existing units. Ms. Bartle stated that staff has not looked at using this fund for rental assistance. Mayor Pro Tempore Meister inquired about creating a contract between the City and the owner. Councilmember Shyne commented that this is an interesting idea. Property Development Manager Brian League noted that staff is looking at non-residential units that can be converted to affordable housing units in partnership with a non-profit. Mayor Pro Tempore Meister suggested the Emser Tile building as well as the Standard Hotel.

Item 3.B. Property Development Manager Brian League provided a brief update on the City's Housing Capacity Analysis Study and the City's work with the Urban Land Institute.

Mayor Pro Tempore Meister requested that Urban Design and Architecture Studio Manager Ric Abramson attend the next subcommittee meeting to provide an update. She inquired about the number of vacancies currently exist in new buildings.

Item 3.C. Project Development Administrator Alicen Bartle provided an update and overview of the City's Housing Element and inclusion of Homeless Housing Strategies. The current cycle period is 2013-2021. She spoke about compliance with the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD). She provided an update on the Housing Element Task Force's meeting of February 1, 2021 as well as future meetings. She reported on the 5th Cycle Housing Element Goals and spoke about next steps.

Councilmember Shyne asked for an update from staff on discussions with Los Angeles County on the Metro Site (Santa Monica Blvd.). Property Development Manager Brian League provided an update regarding a conversation that he has with Diane Dominguez, Principal Real Estate Officer for Los Angeles County, regarding the formal process for the City's request. She informed Mr. League that a formal, written request is needed for the County to consider the City's request.

Mayor Pro Tempore Meister inquired about how we move forward with the request to the County. Mr. League responded that he would work with the City Clerk's Office and the City Attorney's Office to move forward with drafting and sending the letter.

Councilmember Shyne noted that the County is looking at installing 24-hour bathrooms (port-potties) and asked staff to get more information so they can report back at a future meeting.

Mayor Pro Tempore Meister inquired about mobile MET units and mobile bathrooms. Assistant City Manager Oscar Delgado noted that staff is re-evaluating the use of the Crescent Heights/Santa Monica Boulevard property. He further noted that staff is conducting a capacity analysis which will be discussed at the May 17th City Council meeting. Urban Design and Architecture Studio Manager Ric Abramson will attend the April Homelessness Subcommittee meeting and provide an update.

Mayor Pro Tempore Meister inquired about Project Roomkey (Best Western Hotels), utilizing the Standard Hotel, and inquiring with the County regarding additional MET units. Acting City Clerk Crowder commented that CLA staff will have the letter to the County for additional MET units completed next week.

Strategic Initiatives Manager Corri Planck responded to the comments regarding Project Roomkey which is transitioning to Project Homekey. She discussed the Request for Qualifications Homeless Services/Housing Facility Feasibility Study as well as the potential use of the Crescent Heights/Santa Monica Blvd. site for this type of use.

Councilmember Shyne expressed concern with Project Roomkey, specifically with regards to security issues for women, the 7:00 p.m. cut-off time, and security personnel's authority to enter the room without notification. Ms. Planck responded that staff needs to look into this and report back to the subcommittee. She noted that the City's goals are to focus on permanent housing for our unhoused community members.

THESE INFORMATIONAL NOTES ARE PREPARED BY THE CITY CLERK'S OFFICE AND ARE NOT APPROVED BY THE SUBCOMMITTEE.

Public Comment

- Victor Omelczenko:
 - Thanked everyone for the meeting
 - Mentioned the Affordable Housing Trust Fund
 - The cost of constructing affordable housing units
 - Utilizing existing vacant properties to create affordable housing

Project Development Administrator Alicen Bartle provided a brief response to Mr. Omelczenko's comments, specifically the funds available in the Affordable Housing Trust Fund.

Mayor Pro Tempore Meister requested an update on the use of the Affordable Housing Trust Fund dollars.

The meeting adjourned at 9:51 a.m.

Melissa Crowder

Melissa Crowder, Acting City Clerk