

CITY CLERK'S RECORD OF MEETING

City Council Homelessness Subcommittee
October 28, 2021

Present: Mayor Lauren Meister, Mayor Pro Tempore Sepi Shyne, Assistant City Manager Oscar Delgado, Director of Public Works Steve Campbell, Director of Public Safety Kristin Cook, and City Clerk Melissa Crowder.

Mayor Pro Tempore Shyne called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. and a motion to approve the agenda was made, seconded, and approved.

There were no public comments.

Item 3.A. Exploration of Alternative and Additional Public Restrooms

Strategic Initiatives Manager Corri Planck commented that this item is following up on previous conversations with the subcommittee and staff about increased access to public restrooms for both housed and unhoused residents, as well as visitors. The Chamber of Commerce Homeless Committee will be reconvening to focus on COVID impacts on the business community.

Mayor Meister asked where public restrooms will be placed and about safety issues for the people using them and people living around them.

Public Works Director Campbell responded that City parks and other City-owned land will be used. There will be a rigorous process to include meeting with City commissions and committees to determine additional restroom locations. He shared that the City continues to have safety problems with restrooms in public parks. Public Safety has placed teams like Block by Block ambassadors to monitor the restrooms at City parks.

Assistant City Manager Delgado added that public restrooms need a lot of staffing, and that staff will need to study what resources will be necessary to keep them clean and safe, especially over busy weekends when activity is heavy.

Mayor Meister asked Ms. Cook about self-cleaning toilets. Ms. Cook commented that there are lots of self-cleaning options. She further commented that there will be a check-in component, possibly using restroom assistants and additional Sheriff patrols.

Mayor Pro Tempore Shyne commented that security guards monitoring vacant properties are another user of public restrooms. She offered a motion to bring an item to the full City Council, which was seconded and approved.

Ms. Planck indicated that her team is working with Community & Legislative Affairs staff to get this item ready for a future City Council meeting.

Mayor Pro Tempore Shyne inquired about potential funding, and Ms. Planck responded that a funding element will be in the recommendations for City Council consideration.

Item 4. Items from Subcommittee Members

Mayor Meister asked Mr. Delgado for an update on vacant properties and their maintenance and safety. Mr. Delgado replied that Code Enforcement Manager Danny Rivas holds vacant property task force meetings that include collaboration with the Department of Public Safety and other departments. Mr. Rivas can provide a report on the types of vacant properties and the various states of disrepair.

Mayor Meister noted that a public safety discussion is scheduled for the February meeting and the need to include the vacant property issues.

Mayor Pro Tempore Shyne requested an updated report on the status of service providers for temporary housing options and for a homelessness count.

Item 5. Items from Staff

- Social Services Administrator Katie Eagan provided an update on the LA LGBT Center's new affordable housing building. There are currently 13 signed leases for West Hollywood residents. She noted that there will be another tour opportunity at the Ascencia shelter. Mayor Pro Tempore Shyne indicated her interest to tour, Mayor Meister already toured the Ascencia property, and lastly, members of the Human Services Commission will also tour.
- Strategic Initiatives Program Administrator Elizabeth Anderson discussed the County's Measure H funding initiative. The Westside Cities Council of Governments (WSCCOG) has created working groups and feedback groups for regional work on these projects.
 - Mayor Meister noted that a list of questions provided to the Blue Ribbon Committee might be helpful to use with feedback groups regarding the WSCCOG. She asked about the Orange County homelessness model, *Be Well*.
 - Ms. Anderson described the Orange County *Be Well* program as a public/private partnership and operates as a non-profit entity developing their mobile crisis unit. The CAHOOTS program template is a model to learn from. She mentioned that there was an initial conversation with Cedars Sinai and there will be ongoing discussions.
- City Consultant Abby Arnold spoke about the Feasibility Study and the competition for funds from Project Homekey, where \$360 million is available to LA County, and the money will be allocated first come first served. The requirements for funding include a 15-year commitment to keep the project in place, \$350-400,000 total cost

per door with the City putting in some portion of matching funds. There are 58 units allocated for our area. Staff held an information session focus group with the City's social services providers to discuss what they think is required of a facility for a successful program moving people from the street to permanent housing.

- City Clerk Crowder announced that the next meeting will be held on December 9, 2021 at 8:30 a.m.

6. Public Comment

MARK WOOLINGHAM, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke about people urinating and defecating in the streets near his home as well as trash being spread on the streets.

Mayor Meister invited Mr. Woolingham to attend the next hybrid City Council meeting highlighting community safety on November 15, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 9:09 a.m. to December 9, 2021 at 8:30 a.m. via teleconference.



Alyssa T. Poblador, Recording Secretary

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