

**MINUTES**  
**HOUSING AND HUMAN CONCERNS COMMITTEE**  
**August 25, 2009**  
**CITY HALL**  
**Council Chambers**  
**1017 MIDDLEFIELD ROAD**  
**7:00 - 9:30 PM**

Housing and Human Concerns Committee Members Present: K. Bondonno, M. Manuel, B. Miller, R. Dickinson, J. Richardson-Daines, C. Robinson and C. Wright

Housing and Human Concerns Committee Members Absent: D. Brosseau and K. Routt

Staff Members Present: Chin, Jones-Thomas, Mees and Webb

Staff Members Absent: None

Guests Present: John Joy, County Human Services Agency Director of Programs and Cindy McGowan, Senior Director of Programs and Services, Second Harvest Food Bank

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**1. Approval of Minutes**

**M/S** (Bondonno/Manuel) to approve minutes from July 28, 2009.

**Approved 5-0-2** (Robinson and Richardson-Daines not yet present)

**2. Oral Communications**

Oral Communications deferred to Item #4 below.

**3. Public Hearing**

None

**4. New Items**

4.a. New Member Welcome/Oath of Office for Karen Routt

Staff reported that Member Routt not present for this meeting. Oath of Office for new member Karen Routt was given at Council Meeting on August 24, 2009.

4.b. Budget Update and Follow Up on Council Budget Study Session Regarding HSFA

Staff Member Chin discussed a memo that was prepared by Corrine Centeno, Parks and Recreation and Community Services Director. Staff Member Chin reviewed the memo on budget issues with the committee. Staff Member Chin said the state is planning to borrow approximately \$2.9 million from the City of Redwood City and at the September 14<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Council will be considering recommendations from staff and making a decision on how they want to proceed with amendments to the FY 09/10 budget. At the budget study sessions Council decided they did not want to do any further reductions to either HSFA or to the Civic Cultural Commission grants for 2009/2010. The Council wants further information about what the impact would be if there were further reductions or elimination in regards to HSFA program. It is further anticipated that discussions for 2010/2011 possible reductions will begin in January 2010.

#### 4.c. Presentation Regarding Human Services Needs in Our Community

Committee Member Miller reported the Human Services Subcommittee had met and felt a memo and brief statement from the Chair should go to the Council on September 14<sup>th</sup>. In this memo, the Committee would thank the Council for addressing the budget for 2009/2010 and providing the recommendations that were made, but also to let Council know the Committee is looking into what the needs in the community are and working on recommendations. Committee Member Miller posed the question to the entire Committee of what would be important to the HHCC to know in order to develop recommendations to the Council for the 2010/2011 budget year.

Committee Member Bondonno was in support of having the memo drafted, signed by the Chair and submitted to Council by the September 14<sup>th</sup> meeting. Committee Member Bondonno also recommended the topic be put on each month's agenda until the end of the year.

Committee Member Richardson said she would like to see the Chair address the Council on September 14<sup>th</sup> and thank them for funding the HHCC's recommendation for FY 09/10 and informing them of what the HHCC was doing to address and make recommendations for the 2010/2011 HSFA budget.

Committee Member Wright added she would like to recommend the entire HHCC consider being present at the September 14<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Committee Member Bondonno felt the subcommittee and HHCC should get a proposal together by November and be ready for discussions by the full committee in January. Some of the information the committee should look at are what are the percentages for the full PRCS budget and the cuts that are being proposed and how this would affect the percentages for HSFA and the Cultural Commission. Specifically, the subcommittee should look at which agencies and programs may not get funded if they didn't receive any money from Redwood City vs. the agencies that could find additional sources elsewhere.

Committee Member Wright said it would be helpful to know which agencies are able to leverage Redwood City money into a significant portion of their budget.

Committee Member Robinson said further questions the committee might want to answer included how are city dollars leveraged, what are the implications of potential future funding reductions, which agencies would leave Redwood City if funding was not provided and what does the City spend on human services overall?

Vice Chair Dickinson asked the Human Services Subcommittee if they could continue working on these questions and bring something back to the full committee next meeting.

Staff Member Chin presented the committee with a PowerPoint slide show with some information on the census for Redwood City compiled from the US Census Bureau American FactFinder data source.

Jon Joy, County Human Services Agency Director of Programs Support showed the committee a slide show on the Economic Indicators for Human Services.

Mr. Joy said the County is projected to be facing a \$100 million county general fund structural problem over the next three years. The purpose of the Economic Urgency Response Initiative is to respond to rising unemployment and foreclosures, provide coordinated response, to enhance collaboration between the service providers/community-based organizations and leverage funding. Some of the organizations funded were CORA, Family Services Agency, City of Redwood City Fair Oaks Community Center, Legal Aid Society, HIP Housing, and Mental Health Association.

Mr. Joy further stated that in three quarters between July 2008 and March 2009, need for core services such as food and housing has already shown an increase over any other quarter since 2004/2005.

Committee Member Richardson asked if the graphs could be broken down specifically into Redwood City.

Mr. Joy said the foreclosure and unemployment information could show Redwood City statistics specifically as compared to the rest of the county.

Cindy McGowan, Senior Director of Second Harvest Food Bank spoke about the San Mateo County Hunger Index for 2008. She showed the Committee a PowerPoint presentation and spoke on the Hunger Index, which is an aggregate, relative measure of need for food. She also gave some statistics specific to Redwood City and presented an overall picture of how the food bank fits with the county and other organizations and where the food bank would like to go in relative to hunger in the future.

Ms. McGowan said there has been a 48% increase in individuals served year-over-year for FY 2008/2009 with an average of 10,723 individuals being served monthly. The mobile produce service has jumped 378% in the last year and the number of food programs distributed has increased 28%.

Ms. McGowan said one of the most startling things being seen over the last year is the new face of hunger. This includes people who previously have a strong work history and have been impacted by a job loss or loss of hours, loss of benefits many of these people are unfamiliar with how to navigate to get appropriate services.

### **Oral Communications**

Tippy Irwin, Director of Ombudsman Services addressed the Committee regarding the HSFA funding situation. She said Redwood City is the only major city on the peninsula that gives money from General Fund services to support human services. She said their organization is beginning to see the impact of the State cuts on local communities and felt this is not a time for local communities to be cutting services. She thanked Redwood City for all it has done for Ombudsmen.

Melissa Platte of Mental Health Association spoke to the Committee about the great need for continued funding. Mental Health Association's clients are adults with serious mental illness and typically receive about \$894/month because of their disability and most of them cannot work or work full time, which affects their stability in the community.

Brian Greenberg Director of Programs at Shelter Network said they have been the recipient of General Funds from the City of Redwood City since 1990, supporting primarily Redwood Family House. Mr. Greenberg said their requests for help are up 5 times over two years ago and they have had to lay off 10% of their direct services staff because of other cuts and a drop in individual donors. He urged the Committee to do whatever it can to support the non-profits.

Committee Member Miller asked the Committee to email Teri if they had any questions or ideas for the Human Services Subcommittee before their next subcommittee meeting.

#### 4.d. New Website Update

Committee Member Manuel said the General Plan update mandates the Housing website be a source of information and education. The current website is difficult to use, so Debbi and Rhonda have been working with a consultant to come up with rebranding the content. The idea is to rebrand the current website to match the rest of the City's website. Mr. Manuel showed the Committee some mock ups the consultant has been working on and said once the content is final, the Outreach Subcommittee would be responsible for updating the content on the website on a monthly basis.

#### 4.e. Threshold 2009 Events Update

Committee Member Wright spoke and said the second community conversation was being held at Fair Oaks Community Center tonight. She said Committee Member Manuel had stopped in and said the event was very well attended. Ms. Wright said she has been helping Greg Greenway and Susan Danielson with getting the information out to the public and the first community conversation was at the Senior Center and wasn't well attended. The final community conversation will be this Saturday at the Community Room at the Library.

Committee Member Wright suggested one community conversation be held in Spanish only and thought the turn out might be higher than one held in English/Spanish.

Staff Member Webb said Threshold is only scheduled to do three conversations and after the three were held, the City could hold other conversations on it's own without Threshold assistance. Staff Member Webb suggested the Housing Subcommittee could put together a plan to continue forward with the conversations.

Committee Member Wright said three of the facilitators out of 18 were not Redwood City residents, but were willing to do facilitation in Redwood City.

#### 4.f. Update on Consolidated Plan Consultant

Staff Member Jones-Thomas told the committee she was waiting to receive the schedule of meetings from the consultant. The meetings would include four at-large meetings and three stakeholder meetings. The Committee in November would see the community profile and the basic feedback from the needs assessment for the five year strategy. The consultant is currently writing the outreach piece that will be posted to the website. Ms. Jones-Thomas said the consultant will be scheduled to present to the Committee in September.

#### 4.g. Update on Housing First Acquisition

Staff Member Jones-Thomas said on July 31<sup>st</sup>, escrow was closed on the acquisition of 1306 Main Street. The City has contracted with the management company the sellers were using

in the interim. The Council will need to approve the bids to select a non-profit to provide property management services to the residents and coordinate with the Homeless Outreach Team for the referral process for the five units for chronically homeless. The Affordability Covenants need to be recorded. There are currently two vacancies. Ms. Jones-Thomas said she hoped to have the bid documents to Council in October and the contract could be awarded in December.

The Committee had a discussion regarding the \$325,000 previously allocated by the County. Ms. Jones-Thomas said the City would hold the title to the property.

**M/S** (Wright/Bondonno) to extend the meeting for 30 minutes.

**Approved 7-0**

## **5. Continuing Items**

None

## **6. Items of Committee Interest**

6.a. Committee Questions and Issues

Staff Member Webb reported an article was included in the HHCC packets on what is happening with inclusionary zoning in the state. There are a couple of lawsuits currently going on in relation to inclusionary zoning.

6.b. Sub Committee Reports

### **Human Services Subcommittee:**

No report

### **Housing Subcommittee:**

Vice Chair Dickinson reported the Housing Subcommittee had a brief meeting with Craig and him to look at the affirmative marketing and rental guideline documents. They had some notes to forward to Debbi.

### **Outreach Subcommittee:**

No report

6.c. Other Updates

### **City Council Report:**

Staff Member Webb reported the Service League Agreement was approved for \$200,000 to go toward the acquisition of Hope House VI.

Committee Member Wright also reported the Council was disturbed by the Grand Jury report in regards to the South Bay Waste Management Association contract. The Council will be forwarding a response to the Grand Jury. The Council also reviewed the full General Plan.

### **Planning Commission Report:**

No Report

### **Staff Updates:**

None

## **7. Adjournment: Motion to adjourn until the next regular meeting of September 22, 2009**

**M/S:** (Cherlene/Bondonno) to adjourn

**Motion Passed, approved 7-0**

Meeting was adjourned at 9:37 PM