
Health Needs and Human Services Commission Minutes

Thursday, May 14, 2020 1:30 p.m.
Videoconference / Teleconference

Commission Members: Charlie Woodcock, Loyd Platson, Doug Osborne,
Jeff Arndt, Holly Marban, Denise Ewing
Dr. Richard Wein (Assembly Liaison)

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Woodcock called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present: Charlie Woodcock, Loyd Platson (arrived at 1:50 p.m.), Doug Osborne (arrived at 2:34 p.m./left at 2:55 p.m.), Jeff Arndt, Holly Marban, Denise Ewing
Assembly Liaison: Richard Wein
Others in attendance: Deputy Clerk Melissa Henshaw

III. CORRESPONDENCE / AGENDA CHANGES

None.

IV. PERSONS TO BE HEARD

None.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. April 9, 2020

M – Marban / S – Arndt moved to approve the April 9, 2020 minutes as written. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

VI. REPORTS

Chair – Woodcock reported YAS had a lot of changes: House II was a quarantine place prior to admittance into the Hanson House; they were working on outpatient programs and services at The Cloud; and working on a mediation plan to open The Cloud that meets state and city requirements.

Commissioners – Arndt reported a newsletter from Sitka Trail Works went out. He reported on construction for Cross Trail Phase 3. He told of progress made on the mountain biking trail off the Cross Trail. He stated he would need to resign from the Commission as he would be moving. His last meeting would be June 11. Marban reported SEARHC was testing all employees for COVID-19 and clinical staff was tested regularly. She told of service lines that were temporarily paused that were reopening. She told of tele-health options, staff was starting to go back to the office, and she was back in the office with maintaining distance and wearing masks. She was still coaching by phone with a referral. Ewing told of statistics with confirmed COVID-19 outcomes. She reported the state was employing additional contact investigators. She gave details of working with fisheries with regards to mitigation plans. Platson told about a safe business project to assist businesses for reopening.

City Staff – None.

Assembly Liaison – Wein reported on the rescinding of ordinance 2020-14 of the 14-day self-quarantine for travelers coming into Sitka and the requirement of submission of

protection plans. He said the hunker down resolution expired and he told of resolution 2020-17 which was a reminder that state mandates were in force which required quarantining. He told of COVID-19 symptoms, testing, vaccination, and mutation.

Other: None.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

B. Address substance misuse especially regarding drinking in youth

Platson updated that they were set to do surveys through the schools, but due to COVID-19, they were unable to. He was looking into the possibility of administering in the fall. He noted they were continuing to send out PSA and posts about substance misuse that may be exacerbated due to COVID-19. Woodcock told of a grant through the CARES Act to get notebooks for children over the summer and some cell phones. Platson was working on grant funds to have loaner equipment to give to children over the summer. Marban wondered the direction of this item and next steps. Platson noted the commission wasn't restricted to only forming policy, but that the scope of work was broader than proposed policy changes, as it included collecting information and sharing. Woodcock thought to figure out ways to help decrease the access to children of alcohol or marijuana. Arndt thought the data from assessments of intakes would be helpful, wondering if it was possible to obtain some information from them. Platson agreed, multiple sources of data allowed for better/complete/unbiased picture. He thought this Commission could help facilitate. Wein wondered what policy could positively deal with the problem. Platson gave example of increased compliance checks or that outdoor parties could have increased patrol.

E. Public Policy (Three-foot bike clearance)

Osborne felt due to the pandemic, a timeline for this ordinance was in question, but felt it was a good start. Arndt noted the upsurge of bicycle riding as an observation and felt a lot of people would be riding this summer and into the fall. Osborne noted the upswing in bike shops throughout the nation. Platson wondered the capacity of Assembly to take it on. He thought to look at it and get to a final form. Osborne agreed to do a final overview next month, give to P&F for final approval, then to the Legal Department in August with the understanding it wouldn't be a priority, that it could take 6 months.

C. Support creation of a collective impact board

Platson asked for commissioners to submit the list of stakeholders to select from. He thought that due to the COVID-19 pandemic, capacity of folks may be reduced but thought it was important to have the information put together with the list to be ready to execute. In the meantime, he would put together more descriptive information on what the collective impact board was/does. Marban noted the difficulty to keeping the list to below 20. Platson stated 20 should be a maximum with the criteria for the board. He felt 15 was a good number. Marban felt it could be good to have in place with the collaboration currently due to COVID-19 and this could be a helpful group to pull together sooner rather than later. Platson agreed. Ewing told of incident command folks. Platson thought to formulate the structure for it – how to hold the meeting, the format of, time commitment, and the tasks.

D. Food waste, food security, and composting

Arndt had ideas he had heard about that may fit to Sitka's scale of composting. Platson reminded he had tasked members to bring ideas forward.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

None.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Next meeting was scheduled for June 11, 2020 at 1:30 p.m., Location to be determined.

M - Platson / S - Marban moved to adjourn the meeting. Seeing no objections, the meeting adjourned at 3:04 p.m.

Attest:
Melissa Henshaw, Deputy Clerk