

TRACY HOMELESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

**September 8, 2021, 6:00 p.m.**

Tracy Community Center 950 East Street, Tracy

1. CALL TO ORDER – Council Member Arriola called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m. for the purpose of a special session to discuss the items outlined below.
2. ROLL CALL – Roll call found Council Members Arriola and Davis present. Introductions from community members and representatives from local Faith based organizations.
3. ITEMS FROM THE AUDIENCE – Dan Evans asked about the shelter status and any potential delays. He requested weekly updates via social media on project milestones and forecasts for completion. Mr. Evans shared that this type of transparency would help with community buy-in to show that the \$3.6 million county funding is being used responsibly.

Damien Gray expressed compassion for the homeless situation, but asked what will be done with El Pescadero Park in terms of the homeless encampments that currently exist there.

4. REGULAR AGENDA

4A. CONDUCT ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION WITH TRACY FAITH BASED ORGANIZATIONS ON HOMELESSNESS SERVICES OFFERED IN THE COMMUNITY, POTENTIAL SERVICE GAPS, AND PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES WITH THE CITY OF TRACY

Council Member Arriola explained the purpose of round table meeting and invited the audience to speak.

Ken Cefalo – asked about ongoing funding for operations and maintenance.

Midori Lichtwardt, Assistant City Manager - shared that council has approved some preliminary funding for about two years for operations and maintenance.

Ilene McIntire – shared the requirements needed to complete environmental review in order to utilize federal funding, and updated the public on timelines for the completion of the project, potentially late spring 2022.

Community Member – Shared concerns regarding water and the existing water restrictions.

Dan Evans – reiterated his initial request of updates, weekly or biweekly. Midori Lichtwardt shared that updates can be posted and that pending the budget, there may potentially be cameras in the area to show progress on the project.

Council Member Arriola asked for clarification on the timeline of updates to the Council. Midori Lichtwardt shared that the next City Council meeting on September 21 there will be an update to council in regards to homelessness.

Louis Smith from Prayer Temple Christian Center shared that they were attempting to construct a shelter but were unable to get the permits needed because they were unable to get water access. Requested to partner with someone to assist the homeless community and to get water to their building.

Bubba Paris from Tracy Community Connection Center shared how the City of Tracy's Strategic Goals for Homelessness have been adopted by the Tracy Community Connection Center and how they have used those goals to coordinate with other organizations to attain funding and coordinate services. He expressed that the homeless problem is not a city problem, but that it is a community problem.

Mary Doxes from Tracy Community Connection Center asked about the capacity of the Temporary Emergency Housing Facility. Council Member Arriola clarified that Phase 1 holds 68 people and Phase 2 holds approximately 100 people.

Council Member Arriola requested to open the Round Table discussion.

Louis Smith from Prayer Temple Christian Center shared that his organization can assist in the distribution of food and clothing. He shared that they would also like to build a temporary shelter facility but they are unable to get water to their facility.

Alex Zamora from Mission City Church shared that his organization has weekly outreach, provides tents, blankets and shares the gospel. He shared that Emmerson House approached their organization to have Mission City Church take over the services they provide. He also shared that his organization was able to get 11 people out of homeless life and into programs located in Modesto and Stockton. He asked that those that are providing assistance to the homeless population, that they understand that there are those that suffer from mental illness and that the homeless community be humanized.

Dave Evelar from Tracy Family Resource Center shared that their services are focused on family strengthening. They also provide employment training, financial education, and parenting classes for low-income families. As far as homeless outreach goes, they provide food on a weekly basis, tents, and sleeping bags. He suggested that once the kitchen is operational at the Temporary Emergency Housing Facility, that the churches that currently feed the homeless community plan out and rotate services.

Debra Padong from Tracy Community Connection Center and Family Church of Praise shared that she is willing to set up a schedule that coordinates all the meals and the kitchen at the Temporary Emergency Housing Facility so that there are no gaps or overlaps in services.

Dan Judd from St. Vincent DePaul shared that his organization focuses on prevention. They perform home visits to at-risk families, provide resources either directly or by connecting individuals with resources, and can provide those services 24 hours a day.

Wayne Templeton from Tracy Community Connections Center and New Creations Bible Fellowship shared that there has been no central venue or platform for all organizations to work together. He commended the City of Tracy

in putting together this meeting. Mr. Templeton urged the group not to squander the opportunity presented and requested that these types of meeting take place more often.

Amy Scudder from Tracy Interfaith Ministries shared that her organization provides food and clothing to individuals and families in crisis. She looks forward to El Pescadero Park being restored since their building is located in the center of the park, and shared the struggles that come with the homeless encampment there. She shared that her organization can provide food for possibly breakfasts and lunches. Tracy Interfaith has partnered in the past with various organizations to assist families with paying utilities or rent.

Ken Cefalo from St. Paul's Lutheran Church shared that they are willing to assist in any way possible. He also shared that as a local merchant, he would like to be able to provide pamphlets or packet that contain information for resources.

Arch Bakerink from Tracy Community Connections Center shared his role is to work with and monitor what happens to people once they leave a homeless shelter. He stated that the City should see what Goodness Village in Livermore is doing with tiny homes. He asked the City to consider affordable housing and to look at inclusionary zoning, and look towards long-term goals.

Council Member Arriola shared information regarding upcoming affordable housing discussions that will take place at Council.

Bubba Paris from Tracy Community Connections Center shared that his organization supports those who assist the homeless community. He also shared his email address with the group and asked that they email him and share with him what they do. Tracy Community Connections is willing to partner with these organizations to provide services for the homeless community.

Jamie Medina from FIX'd Inc. shared information about Project Home Key and provided some information as to what steps the City has to take to apply for funding.

Council Member Arriola summarized some of the services and collaborations needed to assist the homeless community.

5. STAFF ITEMS – None
6. COMMITTEE ITEMS AND COMMENTS – Council Member Davis congratulated Council Member Arriola on the facilitation of the discussion and thanked everyone that was present.
7. ADJOURNMENT – Time: 8:15 PM.

**ACTION:** Motion was made by Council Member Davis and seconded by Council Member Arriola to adjourn. Motion found all in favor; passed and so ordered.

The agenda was posted at City Hall on September 3, 2021. The above are action minutes.

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Chairperson

ATTEST:

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Deputy City Clerk