

Agenda – December 8, 2016

Walnut Creek Community Task Force on Homelessness

Introductions

General Updates & Discussion

Walnut Creek Police Department Updates - Lt Conley/Jay Hill

Status on meetings with DA's office, local police and probation offices

Guest Speakers:

Chris Richardson, Chief Program Officer, Downtown Streets

www.streetsteam.org Would this program be a fit for Walnut Creek?

Chuck Grant - Safe Time Temporary Housing for the Homeless in Private Homes - shared housing project

Stephen McNutt. Adult Homeless Services Program Manager, Contra Costa County Behavioral Health, CORE Outreach Team

Trinity Center Evening Program 2016/2017 Update – Donna Colombo

Data: Trinity Center Service numbers by City of origin

Reports (handouts)

Public Shower Update – Mary/Peter Brooks

Storage Locker update – Sandy Hathaway

Minutes of October meeting follow:

WALNUT CREEK HOMELESS COMMUNITY TASK FORCE

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH LIVINGSTON ROOM

Wednesday, October 12, 2016, 2:00 PM

Attending: Adrian Lee Bird, Mary Brooks, Lt. Sean Conley, Linda Ribac Colberg, Donna Colombo, Margo Ernst, Mary Fenelon, Sandy Hathaway, Kathy Hemmenway, Ralph Hoffman, Jesse Jones, Jonathan Marsh, Andrey Novichkov, Officer Nicole Rosenbaum, Marie Schoolmaster, Margo Stanford

Following Introductions, General Updates and Discussion: Lt. Conley reported the WCPD is entering data on all homeless persons into a GIS record management system that includes a location map, which will be on line in the November/December time frame.

Lt. Conley also asked if meetings could be on Thursdays instead of Wednesdays so Lt. Hill could attend and it was later decided to do so.

Lt. Conley said there have been 286 homeless contacts year-to-date, many of these are repeat contacts with the same people; there are probably 20 – 30 homeless living in Walnut Creek downtown. He also reported on service calls to the TC area, including a couple of burglaries in area storage sheds. He noted the homeless are not just downtown, but are more spread around town than they have been previously.

He has reached out to the District Attorney and Pleasant Hill and Concord Police Departments to see how all can work together more effectively; a representative from the Concord PD will try to attend future meetings.

There was a discussion about conducting an educational campaign with businesses and residents to encourage them to support the agencies and refer homeless persons to them rather than giving handouts directly to the homeless, so that the homeless can receive assistance in getting off the street. A "Change for Real Change" utilizing a parking meter program used by other cities to assist the homeless was mentioned. No decisions were made on these suggestions.

Mobile Home Project: Andrey discussed his project for making housing out of minivans to aid homeless in getting their lives on track. There followed a discussion on difficulties on finding parking, zoning, permitting, safety and sanitation. The group was supportive of the idea and encouraged Andrey to keep working on the project. Margot Ernst offered to help Andrey with referrals to appropriate resources for permits, zoning, etc.

CCC Homeless Program Update: Dana was not present, so Donna reported there would be a kick-off meeting next week. There will be warming centers in Concord and at GRIP in Richmond opening soon and one is planned for East County. They will have daytime and evening services until 7:00 AM.

Trinity Center Evening Program 2016/17 Update: Donna reported the program is on track for November 12 to March 30. TC has to raise \$22,000 more to meet budget estimates. There will be 38 slots at the armory; 56 members are cleared so that as participants are housed, new ones can be entered into the program (16 were housed last year). Donna also mentioned there was a recent Channel 5 report on the "homeless shelter" at the armory that contained several errors and she is going to contact the reporter re corrections.

Greatest Need for Evening Program: Volunteers and a van and drivers: Probably will have to lease vans, so more funds will have to be raised. One fundraising program starting soon is discount cards for area businesses.

Public Shower Update: White Pony Express, Marie Schoolmaster reported this is a work in progress. They have formed a small functional group to work with Catholic charities. Walnut Creek City Council Member, Rich Carlston, has referred them to an engineering department employee to determine how to dispose of black/gray water. They may be able to get operational funding and site use from an Antioch church as well as funding locally for equipment purchases.

Storage Locker Update: Sandy said they are looking into several models: containers vs. building lockers, etc., but the problem is where to put them. Can the city or a business provide space; or would it make more sense to have mini units scattered around the city? She will have conversations with Margo and Sandy.

Tents and distribution thereof: Donna noted that people bring tents to TC, some congregations also collect tents/sleeping bags, but how does the city feel about tents? Basically, tents are not allowed, but the homeless find and use them anyway. After discussion, it was agreed that public safety is important and that includes homeless. The recommendation is to provide service and referral wherever possible when tents are given out.