**MINUTES**

WALNUT CREEK HOMELESS TASK FORCE

Zoom Meeting: April 7, 2021 ▪ 2:00 - 3:30 PM

*Pre-Meeting from 1:30-2:00 to discuss Trinity Center Evening Program*

*at the Walnut Creek Armory*.

**ATTENDANCE:** *Lisa Andrews, Raishma Anwar, Colleen Awad, Mardy Beggs-Cassin, Bill Berkowitz, Hillary Bowers, Bob Burke, Donna Colombo, Cindy Darling, Margot Ernst, Lawanda Franklin, Krista Fregoso, Mary Fujii, Leslie Gleason, Susan Helms, Kerry Inserra, Jaime Jenett, Janette Kennedy, Joleen Lafayette, Jonathan Marsh, Pam McGrath, Mark Newsom, Cheryl O'Connor, Rich Payne, Jenny Quijada, Rebecca Rad, Samantha Samson, Debra Sanderson, Patricia Sharaf, Bob Stearns, Sherluna Vien, Jan Warren, Nancy Willliams*

**Call to Order:** 2:01pm

**Guest Speaker:** Debra Sanderson, Casita Coalition – ADU Professional Registry

* Please see notes provided by Debra at the end of these minutes.
* Request made for all interested to write to local governments in favor of building ADU’s in lower income neighborhoods.
* Lowest cost would be for garage conversions, amounting to $100-125k. Top of the line ADU’s can reach over $600k.
* In Walnut Creek, ADU’s do help meet RHNA numbers if there is some type of analysis or justification to say it is affordable housing.

**Advisory Committee Presentation to Council:** Mary Fujii and Raishma Anwar

* City Council presentation on the evening of April 6th included a brief overview of the Task Force and it’s accomplishments and upcoming projects.
* City Council members all expressed support.
* A recording of this meeting will be posted on the city website and on YouTube.

**Task Force Leadership Invitation:** Lisa Andrews

* Mark Newsom has volunteered to be co-facilitator on the Task Force. He currently serves as President of the Board at Dorothy Day House, Berkeley.
  + Will begin co-facilitating at our May meeting.
* In need of a second co-facilitator and a secretary.

**WCHTF Logo Discussion**: Lisa Andrews

* Would like to have an art challenge to create a logo for the Task Force
  + Possibly open challenge to local business owners, high school students, the whole community.
  + Considering having members of the homeless population either help with the creation of the logo or be the judges of the logo.
  + Top selections will be presented to the Task Force participants for final selection.
* Lisa will connect with Leslie Gleason at Trinity Center about this project to explore possibilities.

**Housing Committee Report:** Donna Colombo

* A church in Walnut Creek is looking into putting six Tiny Homes in their parking lot and leasing them for a nominal amount to clients. Would apply for grants to get them built. The residents would pay a small rent amount to the church to go towards electricity, etc. The homes would be on foundation and would be leased for 10-15 years, at which point the church would decide then if they want to continue the project.
* LISC will be speaking about expanding their faith-based program at our May meeting.

**Education Outreach Committee**: Lisa Andrews

* Would like to draw more people to the Task Force website to spread community awareness.
* Would like Trinity Center, Loaves & Fishes, the County, and anyone else connected to share upcoming volunteer opportunities to be posted on the Task Force website.
* Would like to start posting success stories and a featured monthly story on the Task Force website.

**Trinity Center Updates:** Leslie Gleason

* On March 25th, 30 people were able to receive Johnson & Johnson vaccine. This was made possible by Healthcare for the Homeless.
* Currently gearing up to welcome a small number of volunteers back on site.
* Invitation made for anyone not currently receiving our e-newsletters to visit our website and sign up to receive updates.
* Members continue to be engaged in a weekly writer’s workshop. Some of this work will be featured at this year’s virtual Gala on June 11th.
* Young Adult Program is serving around 40 people, with about ¼ of them being students at DVC in the START program, which is a program designed for students who have exited from the Foster Care system.
* The final evening of this year’s Evening Program will be Thursday, April 8th. 16 unique individuals participated in the program this year.
* Would like to focus together with the Task Force on researching where else in the city an Evening Program could take place, taking zoning, etc. into consideration.

**County Updates:** Jaime Jenett, H3

* End of June will be the close of Project RoomKey. Many plans are in place to help those utilizing these services to become housed.
  + Whole team of people is now focused just on this.
* Some congregate shelters are looking to build partitions to include personal space.
* Vaccinations have been taking place and are going out into the community to deliver the one-dose vaccine.
* New Annual Report: <https://cchealth.org/h3/coc/pdf/Annual-Report-2019.pdf>

**CORE Report:** Hillary Bowers

* The Walnut Creek Team had 31 total contacts, 21 unique contacts (20 individuals and one family). 68 total services were provided. Of these services, 86% were emergency supplies and connecting people with Trinity Center, 50% were soft referrals such as benefits (GA, Social Security, DMV, bus tickets, and housing coordination, Project Room-Key), 22% were provided garbage bags.
* Hopeful to have a night team back once the shelters re-open.

*Request made to have the Task Force add after-hours assistance for the homeless as a priority. This will be added to our agenda for May.*

**WCPD Report:** Mardy Beggs-Cassin

* HOP Team has not yet been re-established. Currently working on funding, staffing and logistics.
* Officer Gary Silva is back and will be joining meetings again.
  + Goal is to have the HOP Team back up and running by this summer.

**Loaves & Fishes Report**: Janette Kennedy

* Request made to get the word out about the Loaves & Fishes dining room at Trinity Center, which is available to everyone in the community in need of a hot meal from 12:00-1:15pm.

**Casita Coalition & ADU Presentation**

Debbie Sanderson, Casita Coalition

**Debbie Sanderson:**

Co-founder, ADU Task Force and Casita Coalition. Retired Planning Manager

ADU advocate – positive impact on public health, community stabilization

**Casita Coalition:**

* Origin: Grew out of statewide coalition that developed and supported Statewide ADU bills – 2016, 2019
* Vision: Address housing policy statewide to encourage construction of small homes. Includes ADUs and somewhat Tiny Homes.
* Paths: education, policy, strong statewide network
* Progress to date:

1. Created 501C3.
2. Raised startup money for 3 years.
3. Created webpage.
4. Started our programs!

**Casita Coalition Programs thus far for practitioners:**

* “Best Practice’s Webinars.
* “Why Build an ADU”, video series.
* Track state legislation, to protect ADU progress.
* Four working groups (comprised of members):

1. Local Govt. Implementation: *Garage Conversion Guidelines.*
2. Finance: *Financial Guidelines for Homeowners.*
3. Prof. Services: Directory of ADU Professionals.
4. Codes/Construction: CEC Comments.

**ADUs and Homelessness:**

1. Least expensive form of housing
2. Faster to create
3. Provides Instant community
4. Typically, below market rate rents
5. Stabilize communities.

**Problems –** Lack of Equity

1. Low-income homeowners can’t get financing.
2. Little Financial Aid
3. Strings attached to aid.

**Tiny Homes:**

No statewide mandate. Up to local government.

San Jose just legalized.

**Renting ADUs:** Restricted by State Law; a red herring.

**Information on ADUS, small homes, and Tiny Homes**

**Casita Coalition:** [**https://www.casitacoalition.org/**](https://www.casitacoalition.org/)

1. “Why Small Homes:” *Why Build an ADU?* Video, focuses on Senior.
2. “ADU Resources:” See

* *Garage Conversion Guidelines*
* *ADU Finance Guide for Homeowners*
* Links to many other guidelines

1. “Legislative + Policy Resources:” *Best Practices* Webinar series –

Last Friday of every month. Can subscribe to it.

* San Diego,
* Napa & Sonoma Counties,
* San Jose
* Upcoming: Los Angeles and more

**HCD’s Website**: <https://www.hcd.ca.gov/policy-research/accessorydwellingunits.shtml>

**HCD’s ADU Handbook:** <https://www.hcd.ca.gov/policy-research/docs/adu_december_2020_handbook.pdf>