

CITY COUNCIL
BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MINUTES

December 5, 2019

The City Council Business and Community Affairs Committee of the City of Norman, Cleveland County, State of Oklahoma, met for a regular meeting at 4:00 p.m. in the Executive Conference Room located at 201 West Gray on the 5th day of December, 2019. Notice and agenda of the meeting were posted in the Municipal Building at 201 West Gray and at www.Normanok.gov twenty four hours prior to the beginning of the meeting.

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Councilmembers Petrone and Scanlon
ABSENT:	Councilmembers Bierman, Carter and Wilson
OTHERS PRESENT:	Mayor Breea Clark (left 4:30) Mr. Darrel Pyle, City Manager Ms. Michelle Evans, Homeless Program Coordinator Ms. Lisa Krieg, CDBG/Grants Manager Ms. Jeanne Snider, Assistant City Attorney Mr. Jud Foster, Director of Parks and Recreation Ms. Jamie Meyer, Administrative Technician III

Item 1, being:

UPDATE ON THE CLEVELAND COUNTY CONTINUUM OF CARE EFFORTS TO ADDRESS HOMELESS.

Ms. Michelle Evans, Homeless Program Coordinator, stated that the Warming Shelter is ready to go for tomorrow. There are currently nine cots, 70 sleeping mats and lots of clean blankets. The I.T. Department will be there in the morning to help set up the computers. The CoC staff will be there and are familiar with the sign-in process. The sign-in list is prepopulated on the computer to help reduce time. There are preprinted cards for everyone to scan once they have been vetted by staff and cleared by security. This will help the staff identify any housing or case management needs. The Fire Marshal cleared us to house 50 people. There will be separate areas for men and women. We do not anticipate to be at full capacity. Historically the Salvation Army has only ever had an average of 26 people. The Warming Shelter is not a new thing for Norman but this year it has been publicized more than in the past. Typically Food and Shelter hosted these events, and this is the first time the City has taken this on. The City has heard concerns from citizens with regards to offering additional services to the homeless that it may in fact attract more homeless to Norman.

Mayor Clark would like an email to see the numbers on how many people where at the shelter on Saturday.

Mr. Darrel Pyle, City Manager, would like to also address another area that has seen a recent growth of encampments and a pretty unhealthy situation at the Sutton Wilderness Area. Signs will be posted giving a 72-hour notice that states that you cannot camp in the park. Then the cleanup effort will be underway. Mr. Pyle stated that Mr. Jud Foster, Director of Parks and Recreation, has designed some signage that states that a Warming Shelter has been opened at the former Norman Central Public Library and you will have 72-hours to move. The City was waiting to do the cleanup until the Warming Shelter was opened.

Item 1, continued,

Ms. Evans stated that the funding for this project came from the Norman Police Department seizure account. This was funding that had already been appropriated for the Crossroads Youth Facility but since that program is no longer in effect it was repurposed. Currently the program budget is at \$37,680 with the bulk of that being security. There will be one security officer per night, and they all have experience working at the shelters in Oklahoma City. The check-in process will be from 8:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m., and check out is from 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 a.m. Ms. Evans said Councilmember Wilson and Bierman have offered their services to help with the animals. This will enable the animals have a safe place to stay if needed. Norman Regional Hospital has been extremely helpful throughout this whole process. Additionally, there are still a large number of donations coming in from the public.

Councilmember Scanlon said that this temporary Warming Shelter is a really neat thing but the City really needs a permanent day shelter.

Ms. Lisa Krieg, CDBG/Grants Manager, said that the last time the City spoke to Mr. Mattoon that he was still willing to donate the land on Carter and Alameda.

Mr. Pyle explained that the location for a shelter is a big key component when it comes to creating places to offer services to the homeless.

Mayor Clark spoke about what Oklahoma City has done with their Maps 4 Project and how maybe Norman can address some of those similar issues here in Norman with our Norman Forward Projects.

Ms. Evans said that the Point in Time Event and Expo will be coming up on January 23rd, 2020, and she really does need more volunteers to help. The City will have multiple teams going out in the morning, afternoon and evening. This count will include the City of Norman and all of Cleveland County. Last year there were 18 teams and that was not enough.

Mr. Pyle stated that he will spread this information to the other City Departments with hopes that it might round up some more volunteers.

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Item 2, being:

MISCELLANEOUS COMMENTS:

None

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ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:47 p.m.