

Oak Harbor City Council  
Special Workshop Meeting  
Minutes

June 13, 2018

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**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Bob Severns called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. in the Skagit Valley College (Whidbey Campus), Room A306.

**ROLL CALL**

**City Council Present:**

Mayor Bob Severns  
Councilmember Joel Servatius  
Councilmember Bill Larsen  
Councilmember Rick Almberg  
Councilmember Jim Woessner  
Councilmember Tara Hizon

**Staff Present:**

Interim City Admin/Finance Director Patricia Soule  
City Attorney Nikki Esparza  
Development Services Director Steve Powers  
Police Chief Kevin Dresker  
Public Works Director Cathy Rosen  
Fire Chief Ray Merrill  
Assistant to the Mayor Deanna Emery  
Police Captain Mike Bailey  
Fire Captain Mike Buxton  
Parks and Recreation Hank Nydam  
City Clerk Carla Brown

**Others Present:**

Matthew Williams, OH Main Street Assoc.  
Christine Cribb, Chamber of Commerce  
Kristiina Miller, Garage of Blessings  
Dawnita Hunsberger, Garage of Blessings  
Jean Wieman, Help House  
George Saul, Haven Shelter Advisor  
Faith Wilder, Whidbey Homeless Coalition  
Lynda Richards, Island Co Human Serv.  
Melissa Brown, Opportunity Council  
Lisa Clark, Opportunity Council  
Jill Johnson, Commissioner, Island Co.  
Vivian Rogers-Decker, Spin Café/OHSD  
Mike Nortier, Island Transit

**1. Community Concerns Regarding Homelessness**

Mayor Severns opened the meeting by sharing the goal to gather information from local agencies about community concerns regarding homelessness and discuss possible courses of action to assist. The Mayor asked each agency represented to identify their agency and discuss their purpose, mission, services, current operation status, service use numbers, and future plans to meet the identified needs of the community.

- Whidbey Homeless Coalition is a non-profit organization that helps find shelter for those in need. They guide people toward the House of Hope (a 90-day shelter in Langley), the Haven (a daily pop-up shelter), and the Housing Support Center. Shelters are typically full and greatly used across the island.
- Garage of Blessings is a non-profit organization that receives donations and provides

those donations free of charge to the community. Garage of Blessings assists approximately 3500 individuals a month, and a majority of their users are low-income families. Future plans include community outreach to work with other services to provide information on available resources to help people move forward.

- Spin Café is a non-profit organization that provides meals, vocational training, resource referral, laundry service assistance, and shower passes to low-income, and homeless individuals and families. During the week Spin Café serves approximately 40-60 people per night and 25-30 per night on the weekends.
- Help House is a non-profit organization that provides food to low-income, homeless, or those in need. Services include food bank, tele-care, bakery and produce, and holiday baskets. Help House has experienced a 8-10% drop in services.
- Opportunity Council is a non-profit organization that serves homeless, and low-income families and individuals by providing short-term, emergency needs, as well as long-term educational and support programs. Their programs have seen a slight increase in 2018.

Councilmember Almberg, Councilmember Hizon, and Councilmember Woessner provided their respective questions and comments.

All organizations were open to continuing discussion on potential courses of action and how the various organizations can work together to help. Mental Health agencies would also be beneficial to include in future discussions. A future meeting will be scheduled.

**ADJOURN**--Mayor Severns adjourned the meeting at 5:04 p.m.

Certified by:  
Carla Brown  
City Clerk