**Homeless Steering Committee**

122 W. Washington Ave.

January 9, 2020

4pm

**Minutes**

**In attendance:** Meggan Allen, Casey Becker, Pastor Michael Brown, Mike Carter, Supervisor Elizabeth Doyle, Vikki Enright, Jackson Fonder, Jonathan Grieser, Jason Ilstrup, Eli Judge, David Lyon, Jim O’Keefe, Major Andrew Shiels, Karla Thennes, Liz Duffie, Alder Mike Verveer

**Unable to attend**: Alder Sheri Carter, Anthony Cooper, Jason Freedman, Marqueda Stewart, Ariel Robbins, Linda Vakunta.

1. Welcome/Introductions
2. Review/Approve Minutes from Nov. 20th Meeting

Approval passes unanimously with the edit of Jackson Fonder’s last name – removal of the “u” in the minutes document.
3. Project Plan for Phase II

Rev. Grieser – shelter group is in transition. At some point it may be necessary for the group to turn into a 501(c)3 and that will necessitate questions about fiduciary responsibility or limitations group members may have in participating after that.

Document mentions public involvement in meetings. The group will need to think through when meetings will be noticed and community members will be invited to participate.

Informal proceedings make more sense until the structure of the committee/end product moves along further in the process. Important to recognize that people participating in the group may not have the authority to officially represent their organizations in decision making related to the topic.

Document guiding the group structure/work will continue to be a working document and changes can be made if necessary.

1. Shared Observations & discussion/Grace Homeless Shelter Tour

Tour underscored the need for a purpose-built shelter for men experiencing homelessness. Testament to the work that has already been done by shelter providers and Grace Church to assist guests in difficult circumstances.

1. Presentation/Discussion/”Shelter Group” report/Sarah Lim & Jim O’Keefe

Summary is not a City of Madison or Dane County report. The summary does not offer official recommendations on an approach to purpose built shelter endorsed by any of the entities who participated in the shelter meetings.

Discussion of how to gather information regarding what other communities have done to end homelessness and decrease homelessness.

Discussion of getting more information on how diversion could reduce inflow to men’s overnight shelter.

Important to show the community that shelter is part of a continuum of services and that the community is also working to prevent people from becoming homeless, and helping people find permanent housing to end homelessness.

1. Additional items for discussion and next agenda, Feb. 5th

Explore possible partnerships between faith community and agencies to provide diversion/prevent people from entering the shelter population.

Demographics of men’s overnight shelter guests.

Ways to dispel misconceptions about people experiencing homelessness. What do neighborhoods generally want to hear about when a new shelter is being proposed for their area, and how to be proactive with information about a new project.

Explore shelter’s place in the continuum of services and the need for housing units to help people move quickly out of homelessness.

Interest in information about what is being done with hospital and jail diversion to prevent people from being discharged into homelessness.

1. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 5:38pm.