

**RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY BOARD
CITY OF BELLINGHAM, WASHINGTON**

**THURSDAY
May 13, 2021**
Audio-recorded

6:00 P.M.
Online - Zoom Meeting
www.cob.org

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Alycia Hawkins

Members Present: Alycia Hawkins (Chair), Aran Clauson, Brien Thane, Christopher Pasquale, Elizabeth Jennings, Hollie Huthman (City Council), Jennifer Miles, Kathleen Roy, Kaylee Galloway, Leah Wainman (Vice-Chair), and Yin-Ho Lai

Staff (PCDD): Samya Lutz, Housing & Services Program Manager; Darby Cowles, Senior Planner; Heather Aven, Administrative Secretary

Members Absent: Cassidy Thornton and Javier Flores

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Minutes from April 1, 2021 were approved by general consensus.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

BHA has been awarded 63 Emergency Housing vouchers and they will be prioritized to families with children exiting homelessness.

AGENDA ITEMS:

Presentation from Whatcom County on Aging

Chris Orr shared a presentation on all of the programs that are offered through Whatcom County on Aging and provided some statistics on the aging demographic they serve. Some of what was discussed:

- Meals on Wheels (46% increase in 1 year)
- Bellingham Senior Activity Center (BSAC) meal programs and other program offerings
- Sale of Catherine May and Birchwood Manor (39-unit apartments)
- BSAC facility investments needed
- WCOA strategic planning, and alignment with Chuckanut Health Foundation's Aging Well Whatcom [blueprint](#)

Short-Clip Videos on Homelessness

The planned videos will be 30 seconds to 3 minutes each, addressing a variety of topics related to homelessness. Topics will be FAQs, involving agency staff who are involved with direct service activities. The intended audience will be community members who are social-media users; secondary audience will other partner agencies, and electeds.

CDAB members suggested including input from those with lived experience of homelessness, viewing the [Commerce FAQs](#), and viewing the [reddit thread](#) led by Teri Bryant of the WHSC.

Staff Report on HUD 2021 Action Plan

Samya shared that the City Council passed the resolution supporting the 2021 Action Plan at the end of April. She shared some of the issues that are still outstanding that staff will be discussing with CDAB and likely Council in the future:

- Use of “1590” sales tax proceeds, particularly on housing services;
- Cost per unit assumptions of housing development/construction;
- Overall cost increases for capital projects, and creative solutions to address gaps.

CDAB members requested some additional education or a ‘primer’ on the housing development side to understand the components that go into these projects. Samya & Brien will coordinate something for later this summer or fall.

State Legislative Update

Kaylee and Liz shared information about the recent legislative session referencing a summary handout that was sent to CDAB.

Staff Update

Samya shared that the LIHI Gardenview tiny house project has been appealed. It was originally slated to begin operations in May, but that will now be delayed until late summer or fall, pending results of the appeal process. She also shared that discussions are underway about the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) local fiscal recovery funds that are expected, and the extent to which these can be used for areas of interest to CDAB. Council will be briefed on 5/24, but guidance from DC is still forthcoming. Additionally, Kate B has had her baby and all are healthy and well; and a new staff member will be joining CD in June to focus on homelessness – Katy Sullivan.

Future Agenda Items:

- Mayor Update / Tara Sundin
- Additional Information from BHA or others on rental housing development
- ~~State Legislation update~~
- Presentation on role of non-profit vs role of government entity and ways they overlap and how they differ.
- Balance homeownership and the gap in funding.
- Additional discussion on ways to measure equity.

Adjourned

Minutes prepared by:

Heather Aven, Administrative Secretary
Minutes edited by Housing & Services Program Manager.