

MINUTES- DRAFT

9/19/2024 meeting of the Mayoral Ad Hoc Committee on Homelessness

Attended: Sasha Anastasoff, Jennifer Edwards, City Councilor Belinda Gerry, Bonnie Hayes, Dave Bilodeau (co-chair), City Councilor Tim Cowan (co-chair), Bill Lowenstein, George Sheats,

Excused: Peter Floyd, Bruce Noddin, Marianne Veilleux

Meeting called to order at 6:10

General Meeting Notes:

- Bonnie H. made motion to accept minutes for 9/5/24 meeting; Bill L. seconded the motion. All members attending approved minutes; motion passed.

- Three motions regarding excusing members who were absent passed unanimously:
 - Motion to excuse Bruce N's absence was made by Bill L. and 2nd by George S.
 - Motion to excuse Peter F's absence made by Bonnie H. and 2nd by Sasha A.
 - Motion to excuse Marianne V. to take an extended leave of absence due to family issues was made by Bill L. and 2nd by Bonnie H.

- Group discussed whether or not to replace two members of the Ad-hoc Committee on Homelessness who have had to resign. There was strong consensus that replacing these former members was not a good idea at this time/juncture of the committee's work.

- Suggestion by Bonnie H.- Include a reminder at the top to verify that we have a quorum present for the meeting.

- Discussed the Rally for Recovery event last Saturday (9/14/24).
 - Went very well
 - Hygiene kits were a hit. Idea of possibility to include Narcan; Dave pointed out there could be push-back from parents about this (if youth take hygiene kits). Need to be careful about how dispense Narcan.
 - Future hygiene kits- senior center- could contribute/collect items to be put into hygiene kits. Churches and other community organizations could help collect items for kits.
 - Talk with Liz about Auburn swag for next year's Rally.

- Dave provided update on efforts of Lewiston’s Shelter Committee. Making progress with plans for a shelter (longer-term) and drop-in center (this winter).
 - Current plan for warming center, starting November, through April.
 - Goal shelter is ready to open in September 2025.
 - Follow-up discussion- on idea Bill raised at last meeting- if there is a fundraiser on October 25, could we get money for the shelter? Can contact Resiliency Center about activities for memorial activities on 10/25/24.

- Can we put together some winter-items?
 - Dave mentioned texting gloves huge hit in past
 - People might want to knit mittens, hats and scarves.
 - Have boxes with materials/items in spots outside?
 - Have Liz do a blast, as well updates in websites, message out.
 - Waterproof container to hold materials.

- Asked that we add “Progress for 121 Mill Street” as an ongoing agenda item:
 - Some items discussed re. 121 Mill Street:
 - Other organizations who will use office space.
 - Potential recommendation to consider- Partnership (MOU with Community Concepts and Rumford Group Homes)- currently funded by grants and thus timebound.
 - Utilize Bates, CCMC, HS students to volunteer.

- Next meeting-
 - October 3
 - October 24
 - November 14
 - December 12
 - January 9.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm