MINUTES- APPROVED

11/14/2024 meeting of the Mayoral Ad Hoc Committee on Homelessness

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

Meeting called to order at 6:00

General Meeting Notes:

- Bill L. made motion to accept minutes for 11/14/24 meeting; Dave B. seconded the motion. All members attending approved minutes; motion passed.
- Bill L. made a motion to excuse Peter's absence. Bonnie H. seconded the motion. All members attending approved motion; motion passed.
- Craig Saddlemire, co-chair of the Lewiston Shelter Committee provided an update on activities pertinent to establishing the future low-barrier homeless shelter in Lewiston. Some highlights:
  - Goal: Develop a 60-bed shelter. Location not yet determined.
  - City hired Kaydenz Kitchens as the primary organization to run the shelter.
  - Lewiston City Councilor Tim Gallant is leading fundraising efforts.
  - Lewiston City Council working on logistics for shelter- (licensing/zoning).
  - Comments from Ad-Hoc committee members, related to shelter discussion:
    - Potential opportunity for Auburn City to help clarify the current activities happening (i.e. Warming Center) vs. future goal (Shelter).
    - With Catholic Diocese closing church facilities in L/A area, is there an opportunity to repurpose any rectories that are closed?
    - Is there an opportunity to have a Housing Engagement Specialist in Auburn?
- Updates on 121 Mill Street: Phase 1- open in December; Phase 2- open in April.
  - Question from committee member: Can we develop some materials/processes for communicating progress on Mill Street- for public?
- Tim to talk with Emily about a process that will allow us to work on revising report/recommendations in-between meetings, that also allows for discussion and voting of changes during a meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm