



**Blueprint Downtown Steering Committee Meeting Agenda
Zoom Webinar & Telephonic**

May 6, 2021, 6:00 p.m.

Steering Committee Members Present:

Betsy Brenneman	Kirby Day
Daniel Glidmann	Ricardo Worl
Patty Ware	Iris Matthews
Nathaniel Dye (Planning Commission Liaison)	

Steering Committee Members Absent:

Karena Perry, Chair	Laura Martinson
Michael Heumann	

Staff:

Beth McKibben, Project Manager
Alexandra Pierce, Planning Manager
Scott Ciambor, Chief Housing Officer

Assembly Members:

Loren Jones

I. Roll Call

Mr. Day filled in as Chair. The meeting was called to order at 6:07 p.m.

II. Approval of Minutes

a. March 18, 2021 DRAFT minutes, Blueprint Downtown Steering Committee Meeting

MOTION: By Ms. Brenneman to approve the March 18, 2021 minutes with clarification to discussion about nightly short term rentals. Ms. Ware seconded.

The motion passed with no objection.

b. April 1, 2021 Draft Minutes, Blueprint Downtown Steering Committee Meeting

MOTION: By Ms. Ware to approve the April 4, 2021 minutes. Ms. Brenneman seconded.

The motion passed with no objection.

c. April 15, 2021 Draft Minutes, Blueprint Downtown Steering Committee Meeting

MOTION: By Ms. Brenneman to approve the April 15, 2021 minutes. Ms. Ware seconded.

The motion passed with no objection.

III. Public Participation

None.

IV. Steering Committee Updates

None.

V. Topic

Chapter 5, "A Safe and Welcoming Downtown" - Discussion on unsheltered population, text and actions. Ms. McKibben provided a brief overview of the memo, where additional language is proposed in the text of the plan and draft actions to be considered for addition to the plan. She introduced Scott Ciambor, CBJ Chief Housing Officer.

Mr. Ciambor provided an overview of the current programs in place that focus on the needs of the unsheltered population, and the work of the Mayor's Task Force on Homelessness. The newest program is a street outreach program.

Ms. Brenneman noted the last two actions in the memorandum are her favorites. She also likes the concept of a "clean and safe" program that is mentioned in the text. Ms. Brenneman would re-arrange the order of the actions and combine a few. She also wondered about the success of the second phase of Housing First. The plan needs actions that address the public perception of downtown, which includes more public education and outreach explaining what work is being done.

Ms. McKibben explained what a "clean and safe" program is, and that there is one in Anchorage. She also stated it is already in the draft action table. She suggested it could be complimentary to the outreach program under way.

Mr. Ciambor explained the "ven diagram" of outreach programs underway. He also said that Olympia Washington has a "clean team" that similar to the "clean and safe" program discussed in the Blueprint Plan. There are individuals who have access to housing that choose to stay downtown, and the outreach programs encourage them to use their housing.

Ms. Mathews asked for clarification on the last action in the memo. What would the action be to strengthen the relationship.

Mr. Ciambor explained this is a recommendation from the Mayor's task force. The intent is for a more structured partnership between CBJ and the Juneau Coalition on Homelessness.

The internet connection was "unstable" and Mr. Ciambor and Ms. McKibben were sometimes able to participate. Assembly member Loren Jones provided, through staff, a link to the April 12, 2021 Assembly packet briefing the Assembly on housing and homelessness.

Ms. Mathews suggested there should be a stronger focus on prevention.

Mr. Ciambor stated prevention is usually rental assistance, screening, and guiding the unsheltered to housing alternatives.

Ms. Brenneman agreed with Ms. Mathews and suggested that Mr. Ciambor can work to reword the action(s) to focus more on prevention.

Mr. Dye asked how the recommended actions on the unsheltered is specific to this downtown area plan, and maybe it is a borough wide issue.

Ms. Mathews said this plan must address the issue because during the visioning process it was a priority by the public and the focus groups.

Mr. Dye that with the Glory Hall moving out of downtown the problem may be more perception than reality and it is important to frame it in a way that is specific to downtown.

Ms. Brenneman can a homeless person who sets up a camp in a bus shelter (for example) be evicted. Also, can homeless people who are wanted for crimes elsewhere be extradited.

Mr. Ciambor stated he is not an expert on laws. There is a statewide database and there are good demographics on the unsheltered, and its improving annually. Privacy requires strict rules and training for those using the database. A vulnerable person can be identified by name. Tlingit and Haida is adding transitional housing for those coming out of prison, which is a group that is typically unable to find housing.

Mr. Worl asked if it is possible to put the unsheltered to work through a "clean and safe" program as a way to help them gain pride and ownership over the community.

Mr. Ciambor said that Glory Hall has run work programs over time and could report on the success.

Ms. Brenneman asked which of suggested actions would be most helpful to the work programs/partnerships. She noted there is a long list of actions and that the committee is working to winnow the list down.

Mr. Ciambor said the Mayor's Task Force recommendations cover most of the list. He is not sure, they're all important. He said affordable housing is important.

Ms. Brenneman suggested the group think about what is important for the long term.

Ms. Ware agrees there is some duplication and opportunity to combine some of the bullets to reduce the duplication without losing the spirit. She noted her concern about the size of the plan. She offered to send staff her thoughts about how to collapse the bullets.

Ms. McKibben reminded the committee that the plan strongly speaks to adding more housing of all types for all ages and all incomes.

Mr. Day asked if the safe summer campground is complete.

Mr. Ciambor confirmed that is it, including lockers and water, with a schedule for outreach.

The bullet can be removed.

Ms. McKibben asked the committee what they think about including a list of all the current programs/service could be added to the body of the plan in a "call out" box as one way of educating the community about all the work that is being done.

Mr. Day and Ms. Brenneman said they thought it is a good idea.

Ms. Brenneman suggested a recommended action about more community outreach educating the broader community about what is being done, share the successes as a way of changing the perception of downtown.

Mr. Day asked if sleep off usually has more than one person working.

Mr. Ciambor said they do have full coverage, and the incident Mr. Day experienced was a "one off".

Mr. Day, attachment A asked about the boundaries for the information about crime.

Ms. McKibben clarified there is a map that shows the study area of the crime information.

Mr. Day asked if there is a waiting list for a room. He noted concern with people sleeping downtown who may have housing and that the housing is not being used and could be available to someone who might use it.

Mr. Ciambor it is hard to know for the particulars of this situation. It is important to stress that there are up to 24 service providers and it's difficult to coordinate information. The agencies are focused on providing services and less focus on collecting and tracking data. This is one of the primary recommendations from the Mayor's Task Force and is a common problem nationwide.

Ms. Mathews notes that providing the information to the community is a important part of messaging.

Mr. Ciambor explained that the tracking system in Alaska was not functioning and there was training coordinated entry in place 2018 great strides have been made in entering and collecting data.

Mr. Glidman left the meeting at 7. No quorum.

Ms. McKibben reminded the committee that Ms. Ware offered work on consolidating the unsheltered recommendations, and told the committee that anyone else willing to do so may. She would then work with the CBJ Housing office to be sure the revised recommendations work and will then incorporate them into the master implementation table to be reviewed rather than schedule another meeting to just to discuss this topic.

VI. Rock Dump

The remaining committee members informally discussed next steps, why staff has requested additional discussion on the Rock Dump.

VII. Vision Statement

Ms. Brenneman expressed that the recommended actions are “in the weeds” and not as visionary as she would like.

Ms. Mathews agreed and suggested actions be “what is the new thing that gets us to the vision”.

VIII. Committee Comments

IX. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7: 12 pm.

Next Meeting Date: May 20, 2021, 6 p.m., Zoom Webinar & Telephonic