

CITY OF SHORELINE
SHORELINE CITY COUNCIL
SUMMARY MINUTES OF WORKSHOP DINNER MEETING

Monday, September 23, 2019

Conference Room 303 - Shoreline City Hall
17500 Midvale Avenue North

5:45 p.m.

PRESENT: Mayor Hall, Deputy Mayor McConnell, Councilmembers Chang, McGlashan, Robertson, and Scully

ABSENT: Councilmember Roberts

STAFF: Debbie Tarry, City Manager; John Norris, Assistant City Manager; Colleen Kelly, Community Services Manager; and Allison Taylor, Deputy City Clerk

GUESTS: **Compass Housing:** Teena Ellison, Director of Housing Services; Corrinne McKisson, Ronald Commons Programs Manager; Shree Vigil, Shoreline Veterans Center Program Manager
Hopelink: Lauren Thomas, Chief Executive Officer; Meghan Altimore, VP Community Services; Abdullah Siddiqui, Shoreline Center Manager; Barbara El-Naby, Boardmember; Angela Birney, Boardmember - Chair
Ronald United Methodist Church: Kelly Dahlman-Oeth, Pastor RUMC; Sandra Reynolds, church member and volunteer

At 5:45 p.m., the meeting was called to order by Mayor Hall.

Debbie Tarry, City Manager, welcomed the Ronald Commons Partners and expressed appreciation for the benefits the housing has brought to the Shoreline community.

Deputy Mayor McConnell arrived at 5:56 p.m.

Meghan Altimore, Hopelink's Vice President of Community Services, reviewed the history of the Ronald Commons project, from the inception at the Housing Development Consortium in 2012 through construction completion in 2017. She described the process as a collaboration that encouraged active participation from all partners and said Hopelink and Compass function as shared owners.

Lauren Thomas, Hopelink's Chief Executive Officer, gave an overview of Hopelink's mission and explained the vision for a community free of poverty. She described the services they offer to bring stability and help equip community members to exit poverty and shared results of their efforts.

Pastor Kelly Dahlman-Oeth, Ronald United Methodist Church (RUMC), said that the church's mission is to be a global church with a local mission of radical love. He shared an update on the ways in which the church serves the community, describing various events and activities. It was expressed that many people who need services and could give good feedback on the support available in Shoreline are intimidated by City Hall and Pastor Kelly encouraged the Council to come to the regular free community dinners hosted on Thursday nights as an opportunity for good conversation on the topic.

Teena Ellison, Compass Housing's Director of Housing Services, outlined their history and efforts as an affordable housing service provider. She described the population of Ronald Commons, including information on the support and services provided by case management and community building. She listed the improvements made as a result of the Community Development Block Grant funding from the City. Ms. Ellison encouraged the Council to visit Ronald Commons to meet the grateful residents and staff and asked the Council to communicate to residents that there is less of a security risk with supervised housing than with a housing choice voucher program.

Pastor Kelly explained that the snowstorm in February 2019 raised awareness for the need for an emergency winter shelter and shared the partnerships in place to establish one before next winter. He said that since the snowstorm the church, with support from volunteers from several congregations, has hosted up to ten people overnight every night, and that there is always more interest than availability. He said that in addition to providing shelter, they have assisted those in need to navigate health and human services systems and secure assistance in a variety of other ways. He added that working with the guests as they navigate the support systems has given his team a good perspective on the challenges of accessing resources.

It was suggested that siting a Community Court in the City would be of great value. Angela Birney, Hopelink Boardmember and Redmond City Council member, said that her experience with Redmond's Community Court has been beneficial, adding that the associated social support services offered in tandem with the Court are of great value to the participants. Mayor Hall said Community Court is a proven long-term savings for cities.

Mayor Hall thanked the Ronald Commons Partners for the implementation and running of a successful enterprise and said that the City is learning from the model and hopes to use some of the lessons learned as it continues with the 198th Street Affordable Housing project partnership. He asked for feedback of lessons learned two years into the management of Ronald Commons. The importance of good, regular communication by all stakeholders, internal and external, was emphasized. Councilmember Chang said she is hopeful that the wrap around services offered in conjunction with the 198th Street Affordable Housing development offer ample support to the population that will be housed there.

The Continuum of Care (CoC) Board's efforts to centralize support services regionally was discussed. Ms. Ellison said that financial support from the CoC makes it possible to provide more housing units to the neediest members of the community and elaborated on the community and security Compass Housing Alliance's management provides for its residents and neighbors.

Ms. Altimore stated that in Hopelink's perspective, with regionalization of services needs to come the recognition that the distinct priorities of each community must be respected.

Barbara El-Naby, Hopelink Boardmember, shared details on the support she received from Hopelink. She said that an added benefit is that the positive impact Hopelink makes on families often leads the recipients into social services careers.

Ms. Tarry described Shoreline's work on partnerships for shelters, and Colleen Kelly, Director of Community Services, explained that because of Shoreline's geographic location, it is sometimes difficult to leverage resources. Mayor Hall added that the City is right-sized to be able to respond to opportunities for improvement as they arise.

When asked what next steps to combat homelessness the Councilmembers have identified, and what feedback the Council has heard from residents, Mayor Hall recognized the continued funding crisis. Ms. Ellison shared the comparison that the cost is equal to provide a year of permanent housing, three months in prison, or three days in the emergency room, and reiterated the benefits of early intervention and support. Councilmember Scully said that he hears that the City is not doing enough, and that residents are interested in offering more services in Shoreline. Deputy Mayor McConnell agreed, adding that the number of homeless students is distressing.

Mayor Hall and the Councilmembers expressed gratitude for the ongoing work being done by the Ronald Commons Partners. At 6:47 p.m. the meeting adjourned.

Allison Taylor, Deputy City Clerk