

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

Monday, February 10, 2020
5:45 p.m.

Conference Room 303 - Shoreline City Hall
17500 Midvale Avenue North

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

ABSENT: Councilmember Roberts

STAFF: Debbie Tarry, City Manager; John Norris, Assistant City Manager; Jim Hammond, Intergovernmental Program Manager; and Allison Taylor, Deputy City Clerk

GUESTS: Washington State Department of Social and Health Services: Secretary Cheryl Strange; Dr. Brian Waiblinger, Medical Director; and Sean Murphy, Assistant Secretary – Behavioral Health

At 5:45 p.m., the meeting was called to order by Mayor Hall, who welcomed the guests from the Washington State Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS). Debbie Tarry, City Manager, gave an update on the use of the Fircrest Campus site by the Department of Health as a quarantine location for healthy travelers who were potentially exposed to the Corona virus.

Ms. Tarry then opened the conversation on the potential siting of a DSHS behavioral health/developmental disabilities facility on the Fircrest Campus. She explained that the City’s Planning Commission is currently reviewing the regulatory framework for Master Plan Development Permits. Secretary Strange said her team welcomes questions and introduced Dr. Waiblinger and Mr. Murphy. She gave an overview of the state goals to increase support for people with mental illness and the need to add capacity of 1,000 beds and associated wrap around services statewide.

When asked to describe a treatment facility, Secretary Strange stated the requirements of funding and siting for a 48 bed hospital that would physically be three separate 16 bed facilities. She outlined the benefits to using the Fircrest Campus and said they have not been able to move forward with exploring the possibility because of Shoreline’s Moratorium on Master Plan Development Permits and applications for Essential Public Facility Special Use Permits. She said the facilities are licensed by the Department of Health and closely managed and monitored.

Secretary Strange described the behavioral health supportive living staff and treatment teams’ responsibilities. When asked to define what “behavioral health” means in this context, Dr. Waiblinger shared details on the types of behaviors that often present in residents and the treatment methods and discharge planning done to support success. It was explained that the

proposed facility would be an acute treatment facility and the residents would be civilly, not criminally, committed individuals.

The safety of both residents and neighbors were discussed and the precautions and security measures that would be in place were detailed. Dr. Waiblinger explained that people in crisis present differently than those receiving treatment, and he shared examples of how stabilization is a key factor in treatment.

Secretary Strange said one of the biggest challenges is the federal government restriction on the facility size, which is capped at 16 beds if local jurisdictions want to receive funding, and reiterated that the intent would be to place three 16 bed units on the Campus. Discussion of size and location for the facilities within the property followed, with Mayor Hall explaining that land is a scarce resource in Shoreline. Mr. Murphy explained the benefits and challenges to shared spaces and the value of abiding by the federal guidelines. Secretary Strange assured the Council that DSHS is conscientious of the placement on the Campus, and said it is a good opportunity for the City and DSHS to work together.

Councilmembers thanked the members of DSHS for the good conversation and information.

At 6:53 p.m. the meeting adjourned.

Allison Taylor, Deputy City Clerk