

Homelessness Task Force  
Draft Meeting Minutes  
August 7, 2024

Attendance (Members) Meredith Warner, Tory Rhodin, Zack Hughes, Sophie Lewis, Dawn Little, Marty Roberts.

Guests: Kelly Murphy (Assistant City Manager, Staff Liaison), Eric Nordenson (Chief of Police), Carolyn Ridpath, Carly Berlin (VT Digger).

Absent: Sal Alfano & Pelin Kohn, Council Rep., Ken Russell.

**AGENDA**

1. Introduction - Those present.
2. Review and Approve Agenda - Meredith/Marty, all in favor.
3. Review and Approve Minutes - 7/17, 7/3, Meredith/Marty, all in favor.
4. Public Comment - No comment.
5. Task Force Administration - The Task Force discussed the 2<sup>nd</sup> of two priority meetings and the topic of discussion. There was consensus that the 2<sup>nd</sup> priority setting meeting will be the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of September (9/4). Members were encouraged to provide a written list of priorities in advance of the priority setting meeting.
6. Updates (Motel, Street Outreach, Overflow Shelter, Legislative, etc)

Members provided observations of the City Council homelessness discussion on 7/17/2024.

Meredith - Provided an update on the recent news article regarding the Good Samaritan Haven (GSH) Barre Shelter and the potential loss of beds (17 beds in this location) due to flood elevation requirements. Members asked how they could support keeping shelter beds.

Preparation for coming storm was noted.

Dawn - Provided detail on challenges - lack of transportation and services. There's been a reduction in camping sites (due to flooding) and issues with not mixing vulnerable populations.

Zack - agreed with Dawn's comments and noted that water and money to do laundry has been provided. It was noted that there's Increase in need for funding for supplies.

Tory - provided suggestions for placed for people to cool off from the heat (the Montpelier City Pool is Free if 65 or older and the US Post Office has space).

Zack - encouraged members to reflect on priorities for the legislature.

7. Announcements

Zack - Request the status of funding for Task Force, both annual appropriation and emergency fund.

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8. Adjourn - Meredith/Dawn.