

ITEM 5A

**Homelessness Committee
Meeting Minutes
September 16, 2020**



The audio file for this meeting can be found at: <http://www.cvag.org/audio.htm>

1. **CALL TO ORDER** - The September 16, 2020 meeting was called to order by Homelessness Committee Chair Christy Holstege, City of Palm Springs, at 10:02 a.m. on Zoom videoconference, pursuant to Gov. Newsom's executive order governing how public meetings are held during the COVID-19 pandemic.

2. **ROLL CALL** - Roll call was taken and it was determined that a quorum was present.

Members Present

City of Cathedral City
City of Desert Hot Springs
City of Indian Wells
City of Indio
City of La Quinta
City of Palm Desert
City of Palm Springs
City of Rancho Mirage
Riverside County
Desert Healthcare District

Councilmember Mark Carnevale
Councilmember Jan Pye
Mayor Ty Peabody
Councilmember Waymond Fermon
Mayor Pro Tem John Peña, Vice Chair
Councilmember Sabby Jonathan
Mayor Pro Tem Christy Holstege, Chair
Councilmember Charles Townsend
Assistant Director Carrie Harmon
Board Director Carole Rogers, RN

Ex-Officio Members Present

Coachella Valley Housing Coalition
Coachella Valley Rescue Mission
Martha's Village & Kitchen
Home Aid Inland Empire
Shelter from the Storm

Alice Salinas
Darla Burkett
Linda Barrack
Julie Reay
Angelina Coe

Members & Ex-Officios Not Present

City of Blythe
City of Coachella

Councilmember Johnny Rodriguez
Councilmember Josie Gonzalez

Others Present

CVAG

Tom Kirk
Erica Felci
Tom Cox
Libby Carlson
Joanna Stueckle
Gary Leong

CVAG/ Riverside County
City of Cathedral City
City of Desert Hot Springs Police
City of La Quinta
City of Indian Wells

City of Indio
City of Palm Springs
City of Rancho Mirage
Coachella Valley Rescue Mission
CSUSB
Desert Healthcare District

HHPWS
RUHS-Behavioral Health
Riverside County Probation Department
Riverside County Housing Authority

Shea's Veteran Center
Individuals

Greg Rodriguez
Charles McClendon
Officer Christopher James
Mayor Linda Evans
Councilmember Ted Mertens
Chris Freeland
Mark Scott
Jay Virata
Mayor Pro Tem Ted Weill
Roxann Lainez
Diane Vines
Dr. Conrado Barzaga
Donna Craig
Tanya Torno
Marcus Cannon
Cristine Castro
Heidi Marshall
Marcus Dillard
Michael Walsh
Walker Beverly
Brad Anderson
Erica Husky
Jeffery Green
Lauren Macpherson
Six others by phone

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

Brad Anderson, resident of the City of Rancho Mirage, commented on agenda Item 6C.

Staff from the Coachella Valley Rescue Mission let the Committee know they are present.

Mayor Pro Tem Ted Mertens, City of Indian Wells, requested that the record reflect a memo that had been circulated by Mayor Ty Peabody prior to the meeting, which was about Path of Life.

4. CHAIR / COMMITTEE MEMBER/CVAG STAFF COMMENTS

Tom Cox thanked Riverside County for the help on Project Roomkey.

Greg Rodriguez also highlighted Project Roomkey and Project Homekey, indicating that the money has been secured in order to acquire the units in Palm Springs.

5. CONSENT CALENDAR

IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILMEMBER TOWNSEND AND SECONDED BY MAYOR PRO TEM PENA TO:

A. Approve the August 5, 2020 Homelessness Committee Special Meeting Minutes

THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 10 AYES AND 2 MEMBERS ABSENT.

Councilmember Johnny Rodriguez	ABSENT
Councilmember Mark Carnevale	AYE
Councilmember Josie Gonzalez	ABSENT
Councilmember Jan Pye	AYE
Mayor Ty Peabody	AYE
Councilmember Waymond Fermon	AYE
Mayor Pro Tem John Peña	AYE
Councilmember Sabby Jonathan	AYE
Mayor Pro Tem Christy Holstege	AYE
Councilmember Charles Townsend	AYE
Director Carole Rogers	AYE
Assistant Director Carrie Harmon	AYE

6. DISCUSSION / ACTION

A. Election of Homelessness Committee Officers – Tom Kirk

Tom Kirk introduced the item and sought nominations from Committee members. Discussion ensued. The members’ consensus was that, in lieu of making nominations, the Committee would follow the previous practice of having officers serve for more than one year.

IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILMEMBER JONATHAN AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER TOWNSEND TO HAVE THE CURRENT CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR REMAIN ON FOR ONE ADDITIONAL YEAR.

THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 10 AYES AND 2 MEMBERS ABSENT.

Councilmember Johnny Rodriguez	ABSENT
Councilmember Mark Carnevale	AYE
Councilmember Josie Gonzalez	ABSENT
Councilmember Jan Pye	AYE
Mayor Ty Peabody	AYE
Councilmember Waymond Fermon	AYE
Mayor Pro Tem John Peña	AYE
Councilmember Sabby Jonathan	AYE
Mayor Pro Tem Christy Holstege	AYE
Councilmember Charles Townsend	AYE
Director Carole Rogers	AYE
Assistant Director Carrie Harmon	AYE

B. Update on Palm Springs Behavioral Health Facility – Marcus Cannon

Marcus Cannon, of RUHS-Behavioral Health, provided an update on the process of transitioning the former Roy’s Desert Resource Center into a long-term mental health center. The building will provide more than 90 beds, and residents have started to be provided care there now.

Member discussion ensued. No action was taken on this information item.

C. CV Housing First Options for 2021– Greg Rodriguez, Tom Cox & Libby Carlson

Greg Rodriguez presented the staff report. Members of the CV HEART ad hoc committee also weighed in, and explained their recommendation to transition CV Housing First from an outsourced program to one operated by CVAG staff. Mayor Peabody explained the concerns that he had outlined in a memo prior to the meeting, and Mr. Rodriguez noted that a response had been circulated among members for their information.

Member discussion ensued about the idea and the logistics of a transition.

IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILMEMBER JONATHAN AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER PYE TO HAVE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO TAKE THE NECESSARY STEPS TO TRANSITION CV HOUSING FIRST FROM AN OUTSOURCED PROGRAM TO ONE OPERATED BY CVAG STAFF,

THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 8 AYES, 2 NO VOTES AND 2 MEMBERS ABSENT.

Councilmember Johnny Rodriguez	ABSENT
Councilmember Mark Carnevale	AYE
Councilmember Josie Gonzalez	ABSENT
Councilmember Jan Pye	AYE
Mayor Ty Peabody	NO
Councilmember Waymond Fermon	AYE
Mayor Pro Tem John Peña	AYE
Councilmember Sabby Jonathan	AYE
Mayor Pro Tem Christy Holstege	AYE
Councilmember Charles Townsend	NO
Director Carole Rogers	AYE
Assistant Director Carrie Harmon	AYE

7. INFORMATION – The following items were provided for the Committee’s information:

A. Attendance Record

B. Ex-Officio Updates

Linda Barrack provided an update on the services that Martha’s is providing clients, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic

Darla Burkett gave an update on the operations at the Coachella Valley Rescue Mission, highlighting the cooling centers, outreach and housing.

C. Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention Program (HHAP) Grant Application

8. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Brad Anderson, a resident from the City of Rancho Mirage, commented on meeting logistics and particularly the timing of public comments in the agenda.

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Upcoming Zoom Meetings

Executive Committee – Monday, September 21, 2020 at 4:30 p.m.

Homelessness Committee – Wednesday, November 18, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.

10. ADJOURN - The meeting was adjourned at noon.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Cox

CVAG Management Analyst