



A G E N D A
CITY OF SEASIDE
HOMELESS COMMITTEE

SPECIAL MEETING
Seaside Creates
656 Broadway Avenue
Thursday, June 27, 2019
6:30 PM

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. ROLL CALL - ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM

HOMELESS COMMITTEE

Jessica Hare	Chair
Natalia Molina	Vice Chair
Kenneth Murray	Committee Member
Molly Fittro	Committee Member
Latoya Allen	Committee Member
Merrilyn Mancini	Committee Member
Lynda Cunningham	Committee Member

3. REVIEW OF AGENDA

If there are any items that arose after the 72-hour posting deadline, this is the point in the meeting where a vote may be taken to add the item to the agenda. (A 2/3-majority vote is required).

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

Members of the public wishing to address the Committee on matters within the jurisdiction of the City of Seaside, but not on this agenda, may do so during the Public Comment period for up to three minutes. Public Comments on specific agenda items are heard under that item. For the public record, please state your name.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE MAY 23, 2019 REGULAR MEETING

6. BUSINESS ITEMS

A. REQUEST CITY COUNCIL APPROVE PLACEMENT OF SMALL NEIGHBORHOOD FOOD PANTRIES ON CERTAIN PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAYS.

RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended that the Homeless Committee review, discuss and consider authorizing staff to request from City Council approval to place small neighborhood food pantries on certain public right-of-ways.

B. FORMAL RECOGNITION OF ORGANIZATIONS AND AGENCIES WHO

PRESENTED TO THE HOMELESS COMMITTEE.

RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended that the Homeless Committee review, discuss and consider authorizing staff to provide formal recognition to the organizations and agencies who presented to the Homeless Committee.

7. DISCUSSION

A. UPDATE ON HEAP GRANT

B. PROGRESS ON CAMPING ORDINANCE

C. UPDATE ON SAFE PARKING PROGRAM

8. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

9. REPORTS FROM STAFF

10. ADJOURNMENT

Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting:
Thursday, July 25, 2019

Seaside City Hall
6:30 PM

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DRAFT MINUTES

CITY OF SEASIDE
HOMELESS COMMITTEE

REGULAR MEETING
COUNCIL CHAMBER
Thursday, May 23, 2019
6:30 PM

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Call to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. **ROLL CALL - ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM**

Present: Murray, Hare, Allen, Molina, Cunningham and Mancini
Absent: Fittro

3. **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION OF NEW COMMITTEE MEMBER LYNDIA CUNNINGHAM AND THANK AND RECOGNIZE ALESSANDRO TANI FOR HIS TIME AND SERVICE TO THE COMMITTEE**

Welcome new committee member Lynda Cunningham and recognize Alessandro Tani for his service to the Committee.

4. **REVIEW OF AGENDA**

Due to schedules of presenter and City staff the agenda needed to be reordered.

5. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Ashley Hessing and Jesus Martinez: live near Planned Parenthood, in the parking lot they have observed parents and two toddlers sleeping. Would like to know what can be done, have reported to a number of agencies. Hare responded and shared the mission of committee and City working on the homeless issues in Seaside.

6. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A. APPROVE MINUTES FROM THE APRIL 25, 2019 REGULAR MEETING

Motion: Murray, Second: Mancini, Unanimous

7. **PRESENTATION**

A. PRESENTATION FROM "THE GATHERING FOR WOMEN"

Presentation from Kate Daniels with The Gathering for Women: Shared services offered in program and answered questions from committee members.

8. **BUSINESS ITEMS**

**A. RECOMMEND AMENDMENT AND RESTATEMENT OF ORDINANCE:
CAMPING AND SLEEPING ON PUBLIC PROPERTY AND THE ADDITION OF
ORDINANCE: STORAGE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY OF CITY PROPERTY
AND FORWARD TO CITY COUNCIL FOR APPROVAL**

Camping Ordinance: Recommendation to send to City Council amended ordinance as written without identifying a specific location within the City for sleeping; this means if no shelter beds are available, sleeping will be allowed on

any public City-owned property (again as currently written). The Homeless Committee recommended the ordinance be forwarded to the Parks and Recreation Commission and the Neighborhood Improvement Program Commission for input.

Public Comment: Diane Nealson: Concerned about the area at Canyon Del Rey and Fremont, safety, native plants - area no longer maintained, people feel unsafe approaching the area, lots of debris and carts, if ordinance approved there should be specific areas to sleep. Jessie Perez: asked if information went out to the homeless community. Jesus Martinez: Grew up in the community, didn't think this would be safe, find other areas other than parks such as Fort Ord - homeless should be accountable for garbage left behind, concerned with what the City will look like in the future. Gloria Stearns: asked if this has been shared with other committees and commissions.

Approved; Motion: Hare, Second: Molina / Passed: 4-2.

Storage of Personal Property on City Property: Recommendation to send to City Council as written.

Public Comment: Ashley Hessing: asked what happens to property located on private property. Becky Johnson: homeless have quite a bit of property we need to re-think the concept of homeless having too much stuff, storage is important. Storage lockers may help, Salvation Army offers lockers daily. Jesus Martinez: asked what happens to bulky items too big to store.

Motion: Murray, Second: Allen, Unanimous.

B. REVIEW AND DISCUSS COMMITTEE NAME CHANGE

After some discussion, name changed to: ***Seaside Homeless Commission***.

Motion: Murray, Second: Allen, Unanimous.

C. DISCUSSION OF THE SPENDING OF FUNDS

After much discussion for use of \$10,000 in City budgeted funds, final ideas were: SAFE Place, Gathering for Women, SAFE Parking Program, Food Pantry or Bank. The SAFE Parking program will need funds for infrastructure. \$10,000 to SAFE Parking program for infrastructure.

Motion: Cunningham, Second: Molina / Passed: 5 Abstain: 1

9. DISCUSSION

A. DISCUSSION REGARDING THE MONTEREY COUNTY "SAFE PARKING" PROGRAM WITHIN THE CITY OF SEASIDE

Staff member Gloria Stearns gave update on use permit for the SAFE Parking program, some needs are: screening for trash enclosures and portable restrooms. Pastor Lusk provided a list of services that would be available to the users of the parking program.

10. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Murray: all meetings are important, but tonight there was a great amount of input and decision making from the Committee. Allen: Youth Homeless Meeting May 28th 10:30 to 12:00 1441 Shilling Place in Salinas. Molina: disappointed that name change happened without her input.

11. REPORTS FROM STAFF

None

12. ADJOURNMENT

9:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Dempsey, Committee Clerk

Jessica Hare, Chair



CITY OF SEASIDE STAFF REPORT

Item No.: 6.A.

TO: Homeless Committee

BY: Brian Dempsey, Fire Chief

DATE: June 27, 2019

**SUBJECT: REQUEST CITY COUNCIL APPROVE PLACEMENT OF SMALL
NEIGHBORHOOD FOOD PANTRIES ON CERTAIN PUBLIC RIGHT
OF WAYS.**

PURPOSE & RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Homeless Committee review, discuss and consider authorizing staff to request from City Council approval to place small neighborhood food pantries on certain public right-of-ways.

BACKGROUND

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, 40 million Americans — including more than 12 million children — lacked regular access to a sufficient supply of food in 2017. Little Free Pantries are especially helpful as a way to meet the “emergency needs” of those who are sometimes forced to choose between buying food and paying for shelter, medication or transportation.

Similar to the Free Little Library, Little Free Pantries have been set up around the United States and number over 600 today. Prior to City Council approval, the City Planning Department will need to weigh in as well as the Monterey County Health Department.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Wahington Post Article
-

The Washington Post

Inspired Life

Little Free Pantries are like Little Free Libraries — but with food

By Hannah Natanson

June 17

At least once a day, Matthew Nordon drives by the Little Free Pantry in Lexington Park, Md.

Sitting in his “loaner” Hyundai Elantra, often with fiancée Tiffany Tucker by his side, Nordon checks out the offerings on display in the closet-sized wooden cabinet, hand-painted by a local artist and stocked by nearby residents.

Days with canned soups and canned fish — stuff “you can eat right out of the box” — are great days for Nordon, who is jobless and living out of his car with Tucker and her mother.

Days with toothpaste or shampoo are even better.

“It would make things a lot worse [if this wasn’t here],” Nordon said of the streetside pantry. “It’s already a struggle as it is.”

Lexington Park’s pantry, which opened for use in June 2017, is one of over 600 Little Free Pantries set up across the United States over the past three years. The movement started when Jessica McClard, a 44-year-old mother of two living in Fayetteville, Arkansas, noticed a Little Free Library pop up in her hometown. That initiative, which recently celebrated its 10-year anniversary, encourages people around the world to share books via mini-libraries made from things like tree stumps or mailboxes.

McClard was astonished to see scores of Little Free Libraries appear soon after the first.

“There was something going on... and it seemed to have something to do with a need to reconnect with our neighbors,” McClard said. “It wasn’t so much about what went inside the space as the space itself — and I just knew I was going to put food in it. I was determined to do it.”

She opened the world’s first Little Free Pantry on May 12, 2016 just outside her church in Fayetteville. McClard’s proposal was simple: Anyone could build a Little Free Pantry (today there is even a do-it-yourself kit on Amazon), anyone could add food, and anyone could take food. She created social media accounts for the initiative and later launched a website.

Things moved fast. Two weeks after McClard opened the first, a stranger built a second Little Free Pantry in Fayetteville; a few months after that, more than 100 had cropped up across America and the idea had gone international — someone had built a Little Free Pantry in New Zealand.

“I hoped that it would [take off] and thought that it might,” McClard said. “It was just compelling to people.”

Today, in addition to the hundreds in the United States, there are Little Free Pantries in countries such as Canada, the Netherlands and Australia. Through her website, McClard keeps track of as many Little Free Pantries as she can and provides general advice on where and how to build the cabinets. She estimates at least seven new Little Free Pantries appear every week.

“It’s a really neat thing,” said Tim McDermott, the chief development officer for Feed More, a non-profit that collects, prepares, and distributes food in central Virginia. “Addressing food insecurity takes a lot, and this is another pretty innovative piece to the puzzle that meets a really local need where it exists. Hunger is a year-round problem for people.”

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, 40 million Americans — including more than 12 million children — lacked regular access to a sufficient supply of food in 2017. McDermott said Little Free Pantries are especially helpful as a way to meet the “emergency needs” of those who are sometimes forced to choose between buying food and paying for shelter, medication or transportation.

Neither McClard nor McDermott advocated placing strict restrictions on what should go inside a Little Free Pantry. McDermott, who noted that food-insecure people often face health issues, said high-protein foods like peanut butter and tuna fish — or low-sodium foods like fruit canned in its own juice — are always a good option.

But Little Free Pantries are not just for food. Tiffany Childress, 32, who — along with other members of the MOMS club, a local support group for stay-at-home mothers — helped open the Little Free Pantry in Lexington Park, said the items that disappear most quickly are often personal hygiene items: toilet paper, toothpaste, tampons.

“I have not really seen anything that did not go out of a Little Free Pantry,” McClard said. “People should implement this in whatever way suits their need or their vision or matches their resources.”

McClard does, however, suggest that Little Free Pantry owners put up signs forbidding items that could possibly cause harm — things like razors, alcohol or glass containers that might shatter.

In addition to feeding the hungry, Little Free Pantries can knit neighborhoods closer together. Justina Edwardsen — a former resident of Takoma Park, Md. who opened a Little Free Pantry in her neighborhood in early 2018 after hearing about the movement on National Public Radio — said she was surprised and delighted by how quickly her neighbors got involved with the project.

Edwardsen spread the word about the Takoma Park Little Free Pantry by posting on her neighborhood listserv. Within a week or two, the pantry was filling and emptying every day, and almost everyone she knew was contributing. Childress said the Little Free Pantry in Lexington Park, built outside the Lexington Park Library, took off similarly quickly — all it required was a few posts on social media, as well as a few fundraising events (for the construction costs, which totaled a couple hundred dollars) in partnership with local restaurants. Other residents learned about the Little Free Pantry just by visiting the library.

“It brought into view poverty in our community,” said Amy Ford, the branch manager of the Lexington Park Library. “But I think it also gave people a new and visible way to make a difference.”

Molly Edwardsen, Justina’s 10-year-old daughter, said she realized the impact her family’s Little Free Pantry could have when she opened the pantry one day and found a hand-written note tucked inside.

“It said, ‘God bless you,’ and then there was the name of a family and then it said, ‘A Homeless Family,’” Molly Edwardsen said. “It just made me feel so happy to have people not starving.”

Tara Leggett, who lives off of social security disability checks in a home near Lexington Park, is another person for whom a Little Free Pantry helps stave off starvation. Leggett, who is allergic to gluten and suffers from stomach cancer, said she visits the Little Free Pantry in her area every day.

Burdened in part by medical expenses, Leggett sometimes stops by when she cannot afford to restock her own pantry. At other times, when things are easier, she comes by to leave food. And sometimes, she just swings by to clean: She clears away spilled pasta, re-stacks cans, organizes donated items of clothing.

On a recent Wednesday, Leggett spent several minutes aligning water bottles in pristine rows, making sure their plastic labels faced forward. She takes care of the Little Free Pantry, she said, because it takes care of her.

“I have less than \$20 to my name right now,” Leggett said. “This keeps me going.”

Read more:

Doctors said she wouldn’t live to her first birthday. She just went to prom with two dates.

This man scours thrift stores and basements for wheelchairs and crutches. Then he gives them to the needy.

Art critics told him no one would like his paintings. Now fans go on scavenger hunts for them.



CITY OF SEASIDE STAFF REPORT

Item No.: 6.B.

TO: Homeless Committee

BY: Brian Dempsey, Fire Chief

DATE: June 27, 2019

**SUBJECT: FORMAL RECOGNITION OF ORGANIZATIONS AND AGENCIES
WHO PRESENTED TO THE HOMELESS COMMITTEE.**

PURPOSE & RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Homeless Committee review, discuss and consider authorizing staff to provide formal recognition to the organizations and agencies who presented to the Homeless Committee.

BACKGROUND

At each of the monthly Homeless Committee meetings an agency or organization that serves the homeless communities has provided a speaker to share their mission and impact on the homeless communities. Presentations were received from the following organizations: Gathering for Women, SAFE Place, Landlord Engagement and Assistance Program, Sun Street Center, Salvation Army, Community Health Innovations-Thomas Muir, Seaside Police Department and Veteran's Transition Center.

ATTACHMENTS

None
