Metropolitan Homelessness Commission
9:30 am, Jan 18, 2013
Sonny West Conference Center
Howard Office Building (Fulton Complex)
700 Second Avenue South

Commissioners present: Diane Kuhn, chair; Renee Pratt, Dr. Frank Boehm, Charles Strobel, Steven Samra, Dayna Lovelady, Tom Turner, Phil Ryan, Hershell Warren, Angie Thompson, Glenn Cranfield, Megan Barry, Phil Duke, J.C. Smith, Lt. Warren McConkey
Legal Representative: Josh Lee
Staff present: Will Connelly, director; John Hite, Tojuana Jordan, Judith Tackett

Welcome
Diane Kuhn welcomed Will Connelly and introduced him as the new director of the Metropolitan Homelessness Commission.

Minutes
Phil Ryan made a motion to approve the minutes, Phil Duke seconded, all approved.

Supplement as added and approved in the May Commission meeting (May 3, 2013):

"I would like to thank the following people and organizations for their assistance with the Homeless Memorial in December 2012:

- *Judy Tackett of the Homelessness Commission for working with the media*
- *The Nashville Rescue Mission for providing pastries and coffee*
- *The Bridge Bunch for providing lunch*
- *Howard Gentry for providing beverages*
- *Megan Berry for printing the brochures*
- *Lambscroft for providing the chairs and supplies*
- *Charlie Strobel for being the keynote speaker*

There are so many people to thank that, if there was someone missed, I sincerely apologize.
Steve Reiter"

Financials
Diane Kuhn reported that not much has changed in the budget since the last meeting. The Commission still anticipates that due to the vacancy in the director position and in the housing outreach coordinator position, there will be approximately $30,000-$40,000 in funds available for one-time appropriation by the end of the fiscal year.

Budget
Diane Kuhn said that even though the agenda says "action required," there actually is no action required. Ms. Kuhn explained that per legal counsel the MHC budget is approved by the Metro Social Services Board of Commissioners. In addition, the Mayor's budget kick-off will not take place until Jan. 28. "So we won't know until then whether we will have any cuts." Ms. Kuhn said the Commission proposes that if the Mayor asks departments for budget cuts, that those cuts will come out evenly from the contracts.

Project Homeless Connect
John Hite announced that Project Homeless Connect (PHC) is scheduled for February 13. Diane Kuhn said Mayor Karl Dean agreed to participate in the kick-off rally in the morning.
John Hite reported that at this time the Commission is under budget for PHC. 85 service providers from the Nashville area have signed up to participate and offer services including shoes, legal aid, job coaching, pet care, haircuts, disability benefits, housing assistance, veteran assistance, medical check-ups, toiletry bags, and more. Pre-registration is taking place at different locations around town including Room In The Inn, Ken & Carol's, and the Rescue Mission, to name a few.

Tojuana Jordan reported that the Commission has met its fundraising goal for PHC and expects to perhaps exceed that goal "thanks to all of you who have given and who helped us make solicitations." She said that any money that exceeds the budget will be used for mini-PHCs in months to come. Ms. Jordan said that there was still a need for volunteers, who can sign up through her or through Hands on Nashville.
Dayna Lovelady asked about mini-PHCs. Tojuana Jordan responded that the idea was on the table and would be discussed with the new director after the big event was over.
Diane Kuhn said the Commission was open for ideas on how those PHC funds could be used.

At this point in the meeting Diane Kuhn called for a short break to allow additional visitors to come into the room. These visitors joined the Commission after holding a funeral march from Downtown to the Howard Office Building.

Moment of Silence
Diane Kuhn read the following names of people who passed away since November and asked for a moment of silence in memory of these individuals: Robert Brown, James Fulmer, Juan Lahera, Wayne Potts, Lawrence Watkins.
She then invited people who knew them to say a few words and if people wanted to add names of other individuals who passed away, they could do so.

Remarks from Director Will Connelly
Will Connelly gave a presentation in which he outlined five points as a community strategy to house chronically and vulnerable individuals:

1. Build local campaign team & political will
2. Clarify demand
3. Line-up supply
4. Move people into housing
5. Help people stay housed

Q&A
A Q&A followed allowing Commissioners and the public to ask questions. This Q&A was extended into the Public Hearing portion of the meeting, thus limiting people to 3 minutes.

The entire meeting including the public comment section was recorded and a digital version is available to the public upon request.

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