

Minutes

HOMELESS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

April 27, 2009 – 11:30am

Siouxland Health & Human Services Building

Members present: Shirley Halleen, Randy Bartunek, Carol Twedt, Tam Baker, and Vernon Brown.

Members absent: Wendy Giebink, Kerri DeGraff, Hugh Grogan, Judy Buseman.

Others present: Tim and Nancy Nicolai, Owners of Arena Motel, Kari Benz, County Human Services; Russ Sorenson, City Planning; Julie Becker, St. Francis House; Shireen Ranschau, SF Housing; Cynthia Chase, Co. Human Services intern from USF; and Stacey Tieszen, HAB Homeless Coordinator.

I. Approval of Minutes – 04/06/09 Minutes

Upon motion by Vernon Brown, and seconded by Carol Twedt, the HAB approved the minutes of the 04/06/09 meeting as provided. Carried unanimously.

II. New Business

A. Tim and Nancy Nicolai, Arena Motel

- Tim and Nancy Nicolai came to talk with the HAB about their unique opportunity that will be taking place May 19. They have a 7 minute spot on the Oprah Winfrey Show. They have been working to create an appropriate funnel to put any potential donations into and have established a website at www.arenamotelsf.com. A paypal account will be established so that people can either mail in donations or make a donation online. He is still making sure that he will have the necessary bandwidth when the show airs. Vernon Brown suggested that Tim call him after the meeting to talk about this issue. Tim talked about how full the motel has been and that the current trends are lots of single parents and lots of people who have been evicted.

B. Community Development Block Grant Stimulus Funds

- Randy Bartunek, Director of Community Development, presented on potential CDBG funds of approximately \$220,000 that will come from the Stimulus Bill (ARRA). He discussed a meeting that was held to get citizen input on where the money should go and neighborhood revitalization was mentioned. He said they should know more about the stimulus funds in about two weeks.

III. Old Business

A. Housing First Facility Update

- Carol Twedt talked about the continued support of the County Commission for this facility to be built. A Memo of Understanding will be presented and will be put up for a vote at the Joint City/County meeting on May 18th at 5pm. Discussed the City Councilors who have expressed support for the project and about how to get this into the CIP. Mentioned that the Argus Leader continues to be supportive and that Carol Twedt and Vernon Brown will do a live chat with them at 3:30pm on

Wednesday. Discussed ways to get more press coverage of the homeless issue. Shireen Ranschau from SF Housing mentioned that more education is needed of both the public and private sectors of the community in regards to what the Homeless Advisory Board is, what its role is, and greater awareness of the homeless issues in Sioux Falls. Julie Becker discussed the need to hold a neighborhood public meeting to let those who live near the proposed site talk and ask questions. She mentioned how important it was for the success of the 4-plex St. Francis House wanted to build. Russ Sorenson of City Planning agreed and talked about the importance of working with the neighbors by keeping them informed about what is going on. Discussed when would be a good time to host a neighborhood meeting. Carol Twedt favored waiting until after the Joint City/County meeting. The meeting could also be a perfect time to talk more about what the Homeless Advisory Board does. Talked about the Oprah story and continuing to get more press with articles in the Business Journal and possibly on Channel 16. Discussed the need to make sure that the Homeless Advisory Board is spelled out, reducing the use of acronyms.

B. Homeless Advisory Board Membership

Discussed with Alan Graff's resignation from the Board that there was at least one opening on the Board. Randy Bartunek's term will be up in August and his position will also need to be filled. Mike Cooper, Director of City Planning, will be his replacement. Discussed names of some people who had expressed interest in the position and what would make the most well-rounded Board. The Board does have the ability to have 15 members. No potential new members have yet submitted an application for review. Carol Twedt made a motion that we have applications be submitted. Shirley Halleen seconded the motion. The motion was approved by those present.

IV. Homeless Coordinator Updates

Stacey Tieszen provided updates on activities since the last HAB meeting. Presented information from the Homeless Education program with the Sioux Falls School District and what the year numbers consist of as of April 21, 2009.

V. Committee Reports

- Program Committee

Met on April 14. Continued focus on addressing affordable housing issues, long term strategies, creating case study examples, make sure that the homeless numbers are as accurate as possible, and preparing for the influx of homeless individuals and families that usually occurs in the fall.

- Faith-Based Committee

No report at this time.

VI. Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at 1:00pm.