

Title: GPHAG Monthly Meeting – Addressing Homelessness in Time of Pandemic

Date: 4/28/20

Time: 7 pm – 9 pm

Location: Zoom Meeting

Host: GPAHG Homelessness Subcommittee (Anthony Manousos and Sonja Berndt)

Facilitator: Sonja Berndt

Attendees (55): Morgan Tucker, Anthony, Sonja, Barbara B Wilson, UCLA, Marsha Rood, Steve Wiebe, Amara Ononiwu, Anne Miskey, Area Crowell, Bert Newton, Blynch, Brita Pinkston, Calvin Chan, Carol Daley, Christy Clark, Connie, Cynthia Kirby, Cynthia Kurtz, Dan Anderson, Dana Bean, Delaine, Eileen White Read, Hugh Martinez, Sean Morrissey, Dan Anderson, Dana Bean, Delaine, Eileen White Read, Ferne Hayes, Jean Jarosz, Jill Shook, Joe Bautista, Kate Clavijo, Lawrence, Leslie, Anne Marie Molina, Lorynne, Lpaszkiewicz, Rebekah Percy, Sarah Rawlins, Scott, Teresa Eilers, UCLA, Wendy McGrail, Wes Emery, Clara A., Joe Bautisa, Sarah Rawlings, Allison Henry

Bible Reflection (Sonja Berndt)

2 Corinthians 4: 7 – 10

- God is interested in using our weakness to show the world His glory
- God often puts His greatest gifts in the weakest individuals
- God wants us to learn resilience; everyone falls but not everyone gets up
- God is giving us many opportunities to look outside of ourselves

Ground Rules for Zoom (Anthony)

- Keep yourself on mute unless you must speak

Sean Morrissey (Three Minute Housing Story)

- Grew up in a tumultuous family w/ trauma
 - o Physical abuse and sexual abuse at the hands of his father
- Started substance abuse to quell pain and discomfort
 - o Prescription opioids from 12 – 40
- Learned to share his story and not be ashamed
- Tried to get into county funding programs several times and kept losing his place in line
- No accessible treatment for him because of lack of funds
- Barriers of Trauma
 - o Even though someone wants help it is not always accessible, money still buys access

Subcommittee Reports

Homeless Housing Subcommittee (Anthony Manousos)

- On Saturday night I drove my wife Jill to the Huntington emergency room. Along the way I was surprised to see how few people were walking around in Old Pasadena, and how many people

were sleeping on sidewalks or obviously homeless. We do not know the exact count, but it's likely that over 250 people are currently sleeping outdoors in our city.

- Our Subcommittee is concerned that FEMA trailers given to the City are empty while Pasadena residents are sleeping on the streets. We are trying to find churches and other sites for these trailers so they can be used for temporary homeless housing.
- We are urging the City to get its fair share of Project Room Key funding so more homeless people can be housed in motels, and we want the city to partner with an affordable housing developer to purchase a motel for permanent supportive housing. We are partnering with the Pasadena Tenants Union to advocate for strengthening Pasadena's Eviction Moratorium since eviction is a significant cause of homelessness.
- We are also advocating for final approval of Homeless Senior Homeless at Heritage Square South. We began advocating for this project three years ago and it is now coming up for a final vote. We are close to a major victory—69 units of homeless housing—but we have not quite crossed the finish line. That is why we're urging you to write to the City Council and join us on Monday, May 4th. Let us make sure our elderly homeless population is housed!

Church Liaison Network (Bert Newton)

- Our goal is to have 20 liaisons in 20 faith congregations in Pasadena by mid-August. A liaison is someone who represents their congregation at monthly meetings and organizes their congregation to participate in the work of GPAHG. Ideally, we'll be able to rely on liaisons to rapidly activate their faith community members for actions for which we need large numbers of people, usually at a city council meeting.
- We have 18 people who have stepped up to volunteer as liaisons for their congregations.
- There were no new recruits this past month.
- The coronavirus crisis has made it difficult to recruit more liaisons, but we have been focusing on training the ones we have. We are now running monthly trainings by Zoom video. Also, I have been having one-on-one meetings with liaisons by phone or video to prepare for and follow up on trainings. Our trainings include organizing theory, skills building, and updates on campaigns.

Safe Parking Subcommittee (Tom Petersmeyer)

- At our March 23 SGV Safe Parking Meeting, we covered the following:
We have two churches, Trinity Lutheran (29 spaces) and Pasadena Church (15 spaces) in Pasadena interested in safe parking. We are preparing to meet with them with draft intake forms, Memoranda of Understanding, a list of questions for them about their facilities and Parker preferences including if they have Liability Insurance.

ADU Subcommittee (Anne Marie Molina)

- Anne Marie has been missing in action for a month doing homeschooling
- This committee is growing. Our committee chair, Anne Marie is taking a much-needed break while in school herself and helping her 5 kids, all doing school from home. Pastor Len Teng has been stepping up the plate with a call to the Planning Department discerning their level of interest in an ADU design competition.

- New committee members include: Sam Sarpon; Sylvester Williams, Jean Jarosz, and Leslie Greer.
- Last week we submitted a letter to the City Council supporting an ADU to be built by Habitat in partnership with Union Station and the Pasadena Community Foundation. This will be built on a City site that will house a previously homeless couple or individual. Such partnerships fit like a glove with the overall goals of the committee. Our letter was read at the City Council and Councilman John Kennedy later asked if ADUs could be subsidized or expedited it as way to help house our homeless population at the time of pandemic at a lower cost.

CLT Committee (Connie Milsap)

- CLT is somewhat on hold because of the pressing needs due to Corona Virus
- CLT committee has been on a temporary Covid 19 hiatus. After leadership is ready to resume non Covid activities (food pantry and mask making) we will "gather" interested parties to make Zoom introduction. Will work with Zac and his Doodle capabilities to schedule such a meeting.
- Connie had been making masks and surgical masks due to the virus

Congregational Land Subcommittee (Jill Shook standing in for Phil Burns))

- This committee has officially changed its name to Congregational Land Committee to reach a broader scope of religious groups. There are now 26 interested churches in Pasadena and beyond. One church, toward the end of our process of discernment and feasibility, now has a concept for 48 units, vetted and affirmed by the Planning and Housing Departments and the City Council Rep. Next is an RFP to be pitched to potential affordable housing development partners. We submitted a grant for \$20,000 last week for this committee. Pray it gets funded. To allow for affordable housing to be built on church zone changes are needed. We are advocating for an *“overlay” zone to all churches when 50% of the units would be affordable. This would allow:*
 - a. roughly a 100% density increase (i.e. a property zoned at 16 units per acre would increase to 32 units per acre).
 - b. church property that is zoned “commercial” to also become residential
 - c. church property that is zoned “public” to also become residential.

North Fair Oaks Empowerment Initiative (Jill Shook Presenting)

- 18,000 was donated to help move the goals for N. Fair Oaks Empowerment Initiative forward. This team consists of pastors and representatives from Bethel Church, New Life Holiness, New Hope Church, Greater New Guide Missionary Baptist and Group home on N Fair Oaks in in the epicenter of the COVID 19 outbreak in Pasadena.
- One nursing home has over 20 staff and 43 patience with COVID and several deaths. At their meeting last night, they decided to request the public for 600 homemade masks by this coming Monday to deliver 100 each to the six nursing homes with Covid cases. I will put the address for deliveries in the Chat and also send their letter to those at this meeting. The priorities for this team are: Affordable Housing, Safety and beauty-to hire an organizer to help move forward to goals to have "Complete Streets" and an Employment Center-

MHCH Executive Director Report (Jill Shook)

- Impressed with quality of GPAHG teams and progress

- MHCH submitted a grant last week for 20,000 and just received a donation for 1,000
 - o People are saying that density causes COVID 19, but that isn't true and Jill has written an article to explain
- I want to report some great accomplishments and exciting news from this past month as well as some challenges. I want to talk with you about a little known program of MHCH, the N. Fair Oaks Empowerment Initiative, and one of our newer committees, Congregational Land, and some philosophical ideas regarding the importance of density and how we can be so easily deceived if we don't ask the hard why questions and study good data.

Educational Program (Speakers)

Carlos Amador, Los Angeles Homeless Services Association (LAHSA)

- o Carlos is a Community Engagement Supervisor w/ background in immigrant rights, Carlos oversees 4 service planning areas, planning for Homeless Count, master's in social welfare from UCLA
- o LAHSA working around the clock to address needs of homeless during this crisis.
- o LAHSA operate the biggest outreach team and coordinating winter shelter program and administering through contractors some of which are faith based
- o Working to make shelters know social distancing guidelines
- o Project Room Key
 - An effort to bring Corona virus high risk individuals into hotels or motels which are mostly or all vacant; goal is to house 15,000 individuals
 - Today they have 18 motel sites across the county and working with county government
 - Providing 3 meals a day to individuals in the motels, the goal is a 90-day stay period but want participants to transition to interim housing afterwards
 - These people are asymptomatic
- o Continuing to work on safe parking, food program resource list, providing guidelines for service providers to keep others safe
- Convening on May 6th for Faith Based Community to learn what you can do short term and long term

Jenny O'Riely Jones (Homeless Programs Coordinator for Pasadena)

- Background work as direct service provider for many nonprofit agencies
- Pasadena has placed 10 handwashing stations at various site throughout the city that are being well utilized
- Implemented a mobile shower program, 3 days a week showers are being offered at Hill library, Sunday Monday and Friday, offer 40 showers per day,
 - o Partnership with agency called A Shower of Hope
- Distributed Hygiene kits/ handwashing kits for people with hand sanitizer, mask, info card, etc. Kits contain a card with list of handwashing sites and shower location,
 - o Outreach workers distributing kits to people on the street
- Distributed over 1,000 masks to homeless service providers and homeless with more masks to come

- Supported Union Station with critical supplies and cleaning at high risk sites, Union station was the first to move homeless into hotels
- Project Room Key is statewide, and Pasadena received funding for Project Room Key. Pasadena has placed 36 individuals, and most have been people from off the streets, still accepting referrals from partner agencies
- Public Health Department operates program for seniors, and placed 42 individuals
- Working with Abode at Union Station, Abode operates Centennial Space, developing a quarantine space

Anne Miskey (Executive Director of Union Station)

- Anne served as CEO of downtown women's center
- Union Station focuses on ending homelessness, providing permanent housing for people
- Union Station has shifted tactic due to the crisis and now is working to address short term emergencies
- Working to decompress the shelters and put folks into hotels based on who is most vulnerable
- Working at 2 hotels in the San Gabriel valley
- Food security is a huge issue for people
 - o We are providing 8,000 meals a week to people
 - o Desperate for volunteers at food safety for homeless shelter
- Project Room Key is a partnership between many groups and organizations
 - o Union Station started placing folks at second hotel for 150, many are relieved to have a place to stay
 - We are treating them as any other person
 - This is a window of opportunity to get people housed
 - Focusing on trauma informed care, harm reduction, we cannot forget about long term solution as we focus on short term
 - Police officer says they are thrilled and have seen people off the streets and now they want to talk about permanent solution because they see it works
 - Corona Virus is a window of opportunity to get people off the street and turn it into a permanent solution

Amara Onaniwu (Lake Ave Church Housing and Homeless Outreach Coordinator)

- Lake Ave's focus is preventative and helping those experiencing homelessness
- Lake Ave is working to respond to real time need
 - o Lake has a handwashing station, hosted a community meal and continues to host the meal during this time 75-120 people
 - Invites other organizations like Union Station to participate in community meal
 - Put together hygiene kits for the guest for the last 3 Sundays with the to go meals
- Lake's largest program is homelessness prevention through rental assistance
 - o Neighborhood center on the ground floor where people can come to access help for rental assistance.

Teresa Eilers (Everyone In/ United Way)

- Teresa always shows up no matter what, advocating for housing for the homeless
- Everyone In is part of the United Way of Greater Los Angeles
- Everyone In focuses on building a movement and momentum to combat NIMBYISM
- May 4 final voice for heritage square south coming up beginning at 2 pm (this has been postponed since this 4/28 meeting)
- Everyone should write a letter to city council and send Publiccomment@cityofpasadena.net
- Visit Laquaker.blogspot.com for a sample form letter
- Submit the public comment once the meeting has begun at 2pm to have your 200 words read
 - o Comments must be 200 words or less
- Pasadena has some rental protection, but we want more
 - o Economic crisis is what push people to homelessness, we need to keep people in their homes
 - o We want a similar eviction moratorium that LA County passed because it is stronger than Pasadena's
 - A good moratoria Allows landlords to create payment plans and accept partial payments
- Project Roomkey
- We need to house at least 60,000 throughout LA county
- State allocated funding for 15,000 homeless individual to be housed in LA County and to date about 2,500 have been placed. This includes 600 units throughout LA county, but this is temporary
- We need to advocate for temporary to be turned permanent and we want everyone to send letter to their cities for temp units into permanent housing. Send letter to:
 - o El Monte
 - o Azusa
 - o West Covina
 - o Pasadena

Questions and Comments

1. Opportunity for Service?
 - a. Food pantries and meal programs in the city, but the primary need now is volunteers for distribution and delivering
 - b. Faith Partnership and Dan Davidson working on a volunteer form for the partnership website where people can offer services
 - c. We have an intake form pasadenapartnership.org/covid-19
 - d. Follow up on Faith Partnership to volunteer to serve the homeless
2. Question for Anne Miskey. What % of your clients are female?
 - a. 30% across the board
3. How are you helping people who are homeless to get their stimulus checks?
 - a. we have staff who works directly with clients
 - b. Bringing on site people from DMV and make sure people can get resources
 - c. Everyone who is eligible for a stimulus and every person who has filed taxes will get it

