



AGENDA
Cloverdale Homelessness Community Advisory Group
Meeting No. 10

Date: Tuesday, November 9, 2021

Time: 1:30 – 3:00 p.m.

Location: Cloverdale Regional Library
401 N. Cloverdale Blvd, Cloverdale, CA 95425

IMPORTANT:

ALL ATTENDEES ARE REQUIRED TO WEAR FACEMASKS

All Members of the subcommittee will be participating in the meeting in-person. If you would like to provide public comment, we encourage you to submit them via email to the City Clerk at: yspence@rgs.ca.gov. The public may also view and participate in the meeting using Zoom. **Please refer to the end of the agenda for instructions on how to view the meeting and provide public comment using Zoom:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88014108253>
Web ID: **880 1410 8253**.

Meeting Convener: City of Cloverdale

TIME	Topics
1:30-1:40	Welcome from Chair Todd Lands, Vice Mayor and Vice Chair Marta Cruz, Mayor <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Introduction of Community Advisory Group2. Brief Recap of October 12, 2021 Meeting – Meeting Notes (Attached)
1:40 - 2:15	Update on Local Homelessness Activities by Homelessness Coalition <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Updates by Alexander Valley Health, Wallace House & Reach for Home
2:15 – 2 45	Update from Police Chief Ferguson on Police Response to Homelessness <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Discuss Rescue Activity from Russian River during Storm Event
2:45 - 3:00	Closing Comments / Adjourn Meeting

IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING THIS ADVISORY GROUP MEETING

This Meeting will be conducted via Zoom pursuant to the provisions of Assembly Bill 361 which amended the Brown Act

- Attendees may join the meeting in person or through the use of Zoom at: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88014108253>
Webinar ID: 880 1410 8253 or by Telephone 1+ (669) 900-6833 and entering **Webinar ID: 880 1410 8253**



- If you would prefer to submit public comment in writing, please email your comments to yspence@rgs.ca.gov. If you are commenting on a specific agenda item or items, please state the agenda item number(s) in the subject line of the email. All comments received via email will be provided to the Advisory group in writing and included as a part of the record of the meeting.

The City of Cloverdale thanks you in advance for taking all precautions to prevent spreading the COVID 19 virus.

CERTIFICATION – Pursuant to Government Code § 54954.2, the agenda for this meeting was properly posted on or before 5 p.m., 11/04/21.



MEETING NOTES

Cloverdale Homelessness Community Advisory Group Meeting No. 9

Date: Tuesday, October 12, 2021

Time: 5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Location: Cloverdale Regional Library
401 N. Cloverdale Blvd., Cloverdale, CA 95425

Meeting Convener: City of Cloverdale

Chair Todd Lands, Vice Mayor called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm and welcomed everyone to the meeting. Introductions were made and the following people were present: Todd Lands (Vice Mayor) – Chair, Marta Cruz (Mayor) – Vice Chair, David Kelley, Cloverdale City Manager, Kevin Thompson – Cloverdale Assistant City Manager, Jason Ferguson – City of Cloverdale Police Chief, Michael Velasquez – St. Vincent de Paul, Margaret Sluyk – CEO Reach for Home, Colleen Halbohm – Executive Director Wallace House, Danielle Grab, and Debbie Howell – Alexander Valley Health Center.

Update on Local Homelessness Activities (Alexander Valley Health, Wallace House & Reach for Home). Deborah Howell presented the group with the following update. Debbie reported that she worked with Reach for Home, Police Chief Ferguson and Colleen Halbohm on a special case but she doesn't have the results and suggested that Colleen speak on that. She has also been working on her USDA grant. Colleen Halbohm, the Wallace House reported that she has been working on emergency housing vouchers that have been coming out of the County. The group that they are distributing right now are specifically targeted to the chronically homeless, they are the ones that have been homeless for more than one year or more than four times in the last four years. They are working on the vouchers two at a time. The one client that Deborah referenced Margaret may have a better handle on it. Ana Rangel spoke up since Margaret was not present at the time. Ana stated that Margaret has been working closely with many of you regarding a specific homeless person in Cloverdale who needs help. Chief Ferguson wrote an amazing letter on her behalf to explain why ongoing 51/50's has not been effective. They are 51/50 and needs longer term care. This particular person needs a long-term solution. The team has been collaborating to figure out what happens next after the 51/50. We are waiting to see what openings available where someone can stay longer than 72 hours. Chair Lands asked if Ana, Colleen and Deborah have worked together any further on the coalition we're starting here in town. Do you all have any information or updates on that? Deborah responded that Reach for Home has signed a letter of intent to partner with us in the new facility regarding homeless services. Chair Lands stated that he will be setting up another meeting with this group to talk about the next steps. Debbie responded that she wanted to set up a site within our current facilities for Reach for Homes to be located at least one day a week to help people to sign up for housing and get into coordinated entry vouchers. We have an expected delivery date for the new modular that we are replacing on site where we used to rent the old modular. Michael Velasquez – St. Vincent de Paul gave an update stating we're changing our model since we are having the grocery distribution and anyone in need of rent, rental assistance, or cards for Grocery Outlets, we're doing that as they come in. We're not getting any walk-ins on Tuesday mornings from 9:30am to 12 noon. We are looking to change our model where we will be able to help with an on-call with our volunteers and have those people come down to the church when they need something. In the last month they have helped over 80 families, about 20 homeless individuals. Michael also spoke about a homeless lady that they have been feeding but she does not want any help. I found out today that she gets picked up by truckers at the on ramp. They have provided this lady with the basic needs and she says that she wants to get out of town. She has refused some of the coordinated entry assistance from the Reach From Home outreach team. Michael feels this lady is in need of some

behavioral assistance. There are times when he feels that she is high. Michael stated that the chatter in the community is that no one is doing anything to assist the young lady and that is simply not true.

Chief Ferguson said that this lady is someone who could benefit from the team concept of trying to approach this one person at a time. He feels that the success rate of approaching this one person at a time will have a higher success rate. Chief Ferguson is hoping based on Margaret's email that he received today regarding the first individual that we done some steps moving forward and had some progress. He thinks the team concept is going to be the way that this actually start to see a difference.

Chair Lands said that he would include Michael in the meeting with Debbie, Colleen, Margaret and himself.

Public Comment: Jodi Cane, Alexander Valley Health spoke on this topic. Ana Rangel spoke and requested that Chair Lands loop in Reach for Home and the rental assistance for this person being evicted.

Update on Northern Sonoma County Homelessness Task Force. City Manager Kelley provided the following update. He, Mayor Cruz and Assistant City Manager Thompson have been participating on that Task Force. The last meeting was held on September 24, 2021. Supervisor Gore is leading this team and covering the region from Windsor to Cloverdale in the unincorporated area that is referred to as the Northern Sonoma County task force. A final five year strategic plan includes six key strategies including community engagement, emergency shelter and interim housing, street outreach, coordinated entry, prevention and diversion, and permanent housing. The focus has been on finalizing the specific tactics that will be pursued under each of those strategies. Supervisor Gore announced that he would like to host a town hall on October 26, 2021 to give an overview of this planning effort. The County is trying to bring some financial resources to help with this effort. Ultimately this will come to the City Council for consideration. Chair Lands talked about the meeting with Mayor Cruz and Supervisor Gore. He asked Mayor Cruz to give the committee a synopsis on what your plan is with the community center versus paying water bills. Mayor Cruz stated that Supervisor Gore has brought forth in the past the County services to Cloverdale never came to fruition due to some restrictions by General Service in the County. The General Services Director, the Human Resources Director and other individuals that are key for providing services to the County were present as we were planning this conversation. The problem has been the guidelines they had that do not apply to small communities like Cloverdale. There are going to be some adjustments on how the County can bring services to Cloverdale. That will be in collaboration with either the senior center, the library or even the veterans' hall. They are also trying to identify individuals who work in the County who reside in Cloverdale to make it more attractive to be here locally to providing services that otherwise would not be provided. Also, you need to have a number of people receiving services before they can have a center or representation in the town. She told them that the policy does not quite work for Cloverdale because we will never have the numbers that the County requires because of our population. This will be coming up around the beginning of the year and they are going to be working with several stakeholders. This is something coordinated by the County and consulted with the City in getting the feedback that you and I and Kevin and David provide. There is not going to be a build center or anything like that. We are also trying to build relations with Nuestra Comunidad who has a nice space, to see if some of the representatives of the County can start coming to Cloverdale to facilitate people who are having transportation problems. This is not homeless services alone, this is services for families with children requiring what's going on currently with WIC but also for housing assistance, for food security, and health referrals. This week we are going to have Ester Lamas who is working with Sonoma Legal Aid Office, focusing on the services for the elderly. It's going to be covered on Thursday at Coffee with the Mayor at the senior center. All of these services will eventually be in one location. We have been neglected for a long time and the County's lack of action cannot continue because we all pay local and county taxes as well and we need to get those services to our community. It's not just homeless services it is services in general because we have not received those in the past. Mayor Cruz requested that City Manager Kelley put the link to the newsletter in the chat box so it is readily available. City Manager Kelley stated he would send the link to City Clerk Spence who in turn send it to all of the Councilmembers.

Public Comment

Debbie Howell, Michael Velasquez, and Renee Rowe spoke on this topic.

Update from Police Chief Ferguson on Police Response to Homelessness. Chief Ferguson stated that some of the items he was going to report on has already been discussed. He thanked Margaret Sluyk, Colleen Halbohm, and Debbie Howell for being a part of this and reaching out. The last time we were here we were talking about going around and around these conversations but really not quite hitting the mark on taking action and this is the first step in taking action. Chief Ferguson also reported on statistics on what they deal with, with their own population. Since the last meeting on September 14, 2021, we continue to do our morning foot patrol that has not stopped since we began on May 10, 2021. We do frequently come across the same individuals in the business district. Overall since that period I gave, September 14, 2021, we've contacted homeless related folks and incidents 46 times. Seven of those were specifically related to the Plaza. He also mentioned the progress on the team concept that was discussed earlier.

Chair Lands gave a quick update on the vegetation management, they are about 2/3's of the way through the budget from the County and the City and they are wrapping up the section that we had to do with that money, it's nice because the money is going further than they had planned. They will be starting on the private property with private funds as soon as they finish where they are at. They are offering services however no one has taken them up on it but we are making sure they know we are available for whatever they need to help to get them out of the river because they can't live there.

Chair Lands also reported that tomorrow night, Council will see a letter of support for Laura's Law that we are bringing to the City Council for approval. He explained what Laura's Law is.

Public Comment: Debbie Howell, Lian Fabian, and Angela Cordova.

City Manager Kelley gave an update on the Mayor and City Councilmembers Association there will be a presentation by Assistant City Manager Thompson with Sunspots and Runner Park, in regards to Sonoma County Continuum of Care. One of the key aspects of the Continuum of Care is they direct the majority of funding that comes into the county or homelessness services and programs the objective is to ensure those funds through the continuum of care are distributed on an equitable basis. Mayor Cruz stated that this is a matter of trust in your elected officials. We want to be sure to pick the best representatives for the northern county, be assured that our needs are being shared. If there are concerns from any constituents we will bring them forward to these meetings so that they can be addressed appropriately.

Next Meeting:

November 9, 2021 at 1:30 pm