



Dane County

Minutes - Final Unless Amended by Committee

City-County Homeless Issues Committee

Tuesday, August 25, 2015

6:30 PM

CCB 351

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A. Call To Order

Present 9 - HEIDI WEGLEITNER, LELAND PAN, RONNIE BARBETT, DEEDRA ATKINSON, ULYSSES WILLIAMS, CARL GLOEDE, KRISTOPHER WACHOWIAK, LARRY PALM, and MARSHA RUMMEL

Absent 3 - KATHRYN (KAT) KOSKI, LINDA KETCHAM, and BRADLEY HINKFUSS

Others present: Jim O'Keefe, Lynn Green, Karen Andro, Dave Peters, Edward Kuharksi, Supervisor Kyle Richmond, Matt Kozlowski, Shannon Balousek, James L, Lee Hathaway, Brenda Konkel, Jazmin Reese, Alder Sara Eskrich

B. Consideration of Minutes

[2015
MIN-247](#) 2015_0723 City-County HIC Minutes & Public Comment Registration Slip

Attachments: [2015_0723 City-County HIC Minutes.pdf](#)
[2015_0723 CCHIC REGISTRATION SLIPS.pdf](#)

A motion was made by PALM, seconded by GLOEDE, that the Minutes be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: 9 - WEGLEITNER, PAN, BARBETT, ATKINSON, WILLIAMS, GLOEDE, WACHOWIAK, PALM and RUMMEL

Absent: 3 - KOSKI, KETCHAM and HINKFUSS

C. Action Items

1. Election of Officers

A motion was made by BARBETT, seconded by PALM, that this be postponed to the next meeting. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: 9 - WEGLEITNER, PAN, BARBETT, ATKINSON, WILLIAMS, GLOEDE, WACHOWIAK, PALM and RUMMEL

Absent: 3 - KOSKI, KETCHAM and HINKFUSS

2. [2015 ACT-252](#) Creating Section 23.60, renumbering current Section 23.60 to Section 23.70, and amending Section 1.08(3)(a) of the Madison General Ordinances to impose a time limit on use of public benches, to prohibit sitting or lying or lodging in the public sidewalks and rights of way and specified other public places, during specified hours in the Central Business District, and establish a bail deposit schedule for violations thereof, to be known as the Downtown Pedestrian Protection Ordinance

Attachments: [Madison Bench Ordinance](#)

Public Comment:

- Karen Andro - First United Methodist Homeless Ministry opposed to bench ordinance. Introduced family who was denied shelter due to capacity limits and would be unable to use public facilities such as benches under ordinance. Homeless outreach can help address root issues of homelessness. Concerned that statements made by city officials have been polarizing. People do not choose homelessness. Concerned with shelter capacity for single women and homeless families.
- Jazmin Reese - Has been homeless off and on for 7 years. Has been in Madison for 7 days and is currently homeless. Wants to be heard by officials, everyone needs more resources and help.
- Dave Peters - Concerned that situation is declining for individuals who are homeless. Homeless individuals need job training and housing. Hard for people to stay in shelter in church basements.
- Ed Kuharski - Opposed to ACT 252. Believes that it will fail constitutional test. Concerned that enforcement of the policy will waste economic resources and harm human resources. Believes the Fairchild building is an ideal location for a day resource center and would have enough space to host multiple services. Concerned that Bellini site under consideration would not be big enough. Concerned with way that property was disposed of on CCB front porch in August and previous efforts to store items by the Madison Municipal Building.
- Sup. Kyle Richmond - Opposed to ACT 252. County Supervisor and works with partner who owns a shop on capitol square. Believes bench ordinance criminalizes homelessness. Opposed to removing the Philosophers Stones and displacing people without homes who need to sit. Does not feel his welfare is being harmed by people who sit in public. Feels it is overly punitive to people who are poor. People staying at CCB are a reminder of the work that needs to be done to help people.
- Matt Kozloski - Opposed to ACT 252 and believes it will make homelessness worse. Concerned that breaking people apart breaks down the community they find support in. Works with homeless individuals - individuals feel they are attacked and this can make it hard for them to accept help from caseworkers. Also makes it hard to reach out to landlords and get them to accept individuals who are homeless into housing.

A motion was made by WILLIAMS, seconded by PAN, that this Action Item be denied.

- Williams - Believes ordinance is against the 8th amendment. Concerned benches are starting to get retrofitted with center bars to prevent laying down on benches.
- Alder Rummel - Public has brought serious concerns forward. Need structural answers to homelessness. The sooner we deliver services and housing the more people can be helped. Treat people as assets. People have a fundamental right to shelter and food.
- Sup. Wegleitner - Believes ACT 252 criminalizes homelessness.
- Enforcement of the ordinance will be costly in lawsuits and police training to

enforce ordinance. Does not feel the ordinance will end homelessness. Similar ordinances in other cities have not changed behaviors. Believes ordinance will have disproportionate impact on racial minorities, people with disabilities, and people with drug and alcohol addictions. Believes ordinance undermines real solutions to homelessness that are ongoing - housing first, Zero: 2016, the day resource center, permanent supportive housing. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: 9 - WEGLEITNER, PAN, BARBETT, ATKINSON, WILLIAMS, GLOEDE, WACHOWIAK, PALM and RUMMEL

Absent: 3 - KOSKI, KETCHAM and HINKFUSS

[2015](#) City of Madison ACT 252
[ACT-268](#)

Attachments: [ACT 252.pdf](#)

D. Presentations

E. Reports to Committee

1. City and County Budget Discussion:

Jim O'Keefe - City of Madison: City has developed recommendations on the operation budget that are currently under review by the Mayor. Focus on a couple of areas - to sustain and strengthen affordable housing development. 500 units, 250 units specifically for individuals who are homeless. 60 units currently under construction on Rethke Ave. for chronically homeless single adults. Will include supportive services. Second project is planned on the far west side. 40 units of housing for chronically homeless families. Second project needs to compete for and secure federal low--income tax credits. County assistance will help make those credits easier to obtain. Tax credits could be awarded in April. Anticipates three more projects to serve chronically homeless individuals. Capacity to do more than one project per year does not currently exist. Federal tax credits are very competitive and restrict the ability to do more than one project per year. Use of city and county funds make projects much more competitive in securing federal tax credits. Mayor has not yet released capital budget, but all indications are that the commitment to affordable housing through five year plan will continue. 150 additional units of tax credit supported housing are expected to come online through affordable housing initiative. Serve wider range of income levels - families that earn at or below 60% of the area median income. 15% of the units will serve much lower income levels - at or below 30% of median income. Discussion of how to increase units more quickly. Market rate units can be purchased, but this is more expensive. Five year plan focuses on creating new units. Discussion of city funds for rapid-rehousing. City does not spend operating dollars on rapid-rehousing programs but does apply for HUD funds in this area. City funds have been appropriated to help support the operation of a day resource center in the past. Will recommend that there is support once the DRC is open and operating. Annualized amount would be \$100,000. City provided \$75,000 to \$80,000 to fund case management services at the Central Library in 2015. Conversation in 2016 will be what happens to contingency services when the day resource center opens and if these investments will be shifted to support the operation of the day resource center. Discussion of difficulty in finding a suitable site for the day resource center. Increased capital commitment from the county has helped open more options that were not available before. Discussion of the ability of the day resource center to help address some of the challenges city has faced with homelessness. Discussion of library services and if they would discontinue if DRC opened. Alder Palm indicated that there may still be a need for services at the library if DRC opened. Discussion of day resource center services and locating coordinated intake out of that space. Discussion of Fairchild building as location for the day resource center. Currently occupied by parks, MPD. Space on top floor that is underutilized and currently used for storage. Building is in serious need of repair and rehab. County financing requires the county to own the property and City is not willing to sell a part of the building to the county. Location has come into view as a possible relocation for men's overnight shelter. City is working with an architectural firm to undertake the evaluation of what is needed to make the building usable for the future. Will take a look at what additional renovations will be needed to provide services.

Lynn Green – Dane County Department of Human Services: Coordination with City and the United Way is strong. Budgets reflect coordinated thinking.
Housing and homeless services funded by operating dollars - not mandated – voluntary

because county recognizes the importance of this area. Department directions from County Executive were no increases in general purpose revenue, but will see a small increase in the budget in 2016. Budget sustains core services that have been offered in the past. Department was mandated to RFP services and budget reflects the result of that process. Budget continues to support funding for the DRC and reflects funding partnership between the city and United Way. County does focus the majority of funding on emergency shelter and will continue to do that. Mandate is to protect families, children, adults. Department budget does not reflect capital, but county has worked to partner and support capital commitment to create affordable housing with the City of Madison. Other forms of housing support is located in other areas of the department. Seeing this need increase in other program areas, like Joining Forces for Families (eviction prevention for families with children), mental health - department has backfilled more than \$100,000 to sustain Tellurian THP program, Early Childhood Initiative (ECI) prevents eviction and stabilizes housing.

2. Homeless property storage downtown and County practices and policies for property found or abandoned on County property:

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Lee Hathaway - Formerly incarcerated and about to move into housing. Has concerns with Sanctuary storage program management and past interactions with that agency.
- James L - Came to Madison from Las Vegas. Las Vegas has little services for individuals who are homeless. Currently storing belongings at CCB and does not have ability to access Sanctuary storage due to health limitations. Downtown storage would be helpful.
- Brenda Konkel - Concerned with ordinance differences between city and county when it comes to property disposition.

Discussion of incident when belongings were disposed of from the CCB porch when they were left unattended. MPD and County Facilities worker helped facilitate retrieval of the belongings. Discussion of temporary storage facility at the Madison Municipal Building and issues with stolen belongings and weather damaging belongings. Discussion of potential legal and moral considerations that need to come into play with property disposition in the future.

Williams, Wegleitner express concerns with lack of warning issued to people storing items at the CCB. Wegleitner will follow up with county staff to help prevent similar incident in the future.

Motion Rummel, second by Capt. Gloede - Committee will write a letter to Dane County Department of Administration, describing the property removal incident as committee understands it and advocate for due process and notice if property is going to be disposed of.

Alder Rummel will follow up with City Attorneys to clarify city ordinance if necessary.

Motion from Williams to put safe, accessible storage downtown. Second by Wegleitner.

Discussion of potential to place lockers on city or county property. Discussion of challenges individuals who are homeless and disabled face in accessing storage that is not downtown.

Amend Motion to urge the city and county to work together to cite 24/7 storage access. Passes unanimously.

[2015](#)
[DISC-047](#)

County Corporation Counsel Opinion on City Ordinance

Attachments: [County Corp Counsel opinion city ord.pdf](#)

3. Update on Day Resource Center: Casey Becker, DCDHS - Engineers toured the Bellini site last week and are working on estimates for what renovations are possible and what those renovations may cost. Should have a more complete picture of potential for the site in a few weeks. Discussion of future opportunities for neighborhood residents, policy makers, to weigh in suitability of Bellini as a site for the Day Resource Center. Discussion of alternate sites that are being considered. County has filled for a conditional use permit on the Martin St. site in the Town of Madison. No other sites have been identified at this time.

4. Zero 2016 Update: 30 Day Action period for Zero 2016 effort has passed and progress has been made on major goals. Supportive Services for Veterans Families Staff (housed at Community Action Coalition) and VA Staff are working together to share data and strengthen the delivery of services to veterans who are homeless. Five veterans were housed in July, and at least five veterans were housed so far in August. A by-name housing priority list has been developed for adults who are chronically homeless adults and veterans who are homeless. 85 homeless veterans out of 130 have been identified by name. 125 out of 135 adults who are homeless have been identified by name. Supportive Services for Veterans Families Staff is working with the VA to contact landlords who responded to survey indicating that they would be willing to house homeless veterans. 10 landlords responded that they would like to work with the program, but do not currently have units available. Other goals to create a housing placement group, determine budget priorities, and conduct community education and outreach are ongoing. The city is exploring the possibility of funding a Zero 2016 coordinator to help move the initiative forward. The next steering committee meeting for Zero 2016 will involve taking a look at the 30 Day Action plan to identify challenges and new ideas to overcome challenges and move the initiative forward to achieve its goals. Meeting will take place on Monday, August 31st from 1pm to 3pm at the Villager Mall.

F. Future Meeting Items and Dates

G. Public Comment on Items not on the Agenda

H. Such Other Business as Allowed by Law

I. Adjourn

9:24 p.m.

Recorded by Casey Becker