

**HOMELESSNESS COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING  
May 06, 2009**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Coachella Valley Association of Governments' (CVAG) Homelessness Committee special meeting was called to order on Wednesday, May 06, 2009 at 11:35 a.m. by Chair Lupe Ramos Watson, at CVAG offices, 73-710 Fred Waring Drive, Conference Room 115, Palm Desert, California 92260.

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair Lupe Ramos Watson, City of Indio, led the Committee in the pledge of allegiance.

**3. ROLL CALL**

A roll call of the voting members was conducted and it was determined that a quorum was present.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Mayor Pro Tem Karl Baker  
Councilmember Patrick Mullany (*Vice Chair*)  
Councilmember Lupe Ramos Watson (*Chair*)  
Councilmember Kristy Franklin  
Councilmember Jean Benson  
Councilmember Ginny Foat  
Councilmember Alan Seman  
Leticia DeLara, Legislative Assistant

**AGENCY**

City of Desert Hot Springs  
City of Indian Wells  
City of Indio  
City of La Quinta  
City of Palm Desert  
City of Palm Springs  
City of Rancho Mirage  
County of Riverside

**MEMBER ABSENT**

Councilmember Emmanuel Martinez  
Councilmember Chuck Vasquez

**AGENCY**

City of Coachella  
City of Cathedral City

**EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT**

Darla Burkett, Executive Director  
Chuck Johnson, Program Manager/Region D  
Linda Barrack, Director  
  
John Wolohan  
Lothar Vasholz

**AGENCY**

Coachella Valley Rescue Mission  
Episcopal Community Services  
Jewish Family Service of San Diego  
Martha's Village and Kitchen  
The Salvation Army

Dale Cook, Community Dev. Admin.

City of Palm Springs

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Donna Craig, Chief Program Officer  
Adriana Melgoza, Case Worker  
Jesus Gomez, Housing Program Manager  
Pam Tuschner, Partner  
Rizaldy Baluyot, Supervising Facilities Project Manager  
Vincent Yzaguirre, Dir. Of Real Estate

Desert Healthcare District  
Catholic Charities  
City of Indio  
WWCOT Architects  
County of Riverside  
County of Riverside Facilities Mgmt.

**SUPPORT STAFF PRESENT**

Dr. Ron Stewart, Administrative Manager/Homeless  
Larry Parrish, Interim, Executive Director  
Aurora Wilson, Director of Community Resources  
Amanda Keil, Management Analyst  
Patty Nevins, Interim Program Assistant

County Homeless Division  
CVAG  
CVAG  
CVAG  
CVAG

4. **FINALIZATION OF AGENDA / ADDITIONS & REVISIONS** - None.

5. **PUBLIC COMMENTS** - None

6. **COMMITTEE MEMBERS / EX-OFFICIOS & DIRECTORS COMMENTS**

Discussion took place regarding city funding contributions for the Desert Resource Center. Councilmember Ginny Foat, City of Palm Springs, questioned why the committee is considering the floor plan when it appears that a number of cities are not buying in to the project. Councilmember Patrick Mullany, City of Indian Wells, stated that it is harder to sell the project when others are not participating. Councilmember Jean Benson, City of Palm Desert, noted that cities should not be changing their support during tough times but should be consistent. Mayor Pro Tem Alan Seman, City of Indian Wells, stated that Rancho Mirage supports the project but has concerns with the funding contribution formula utilized. Councilmember Lupe Ramos Watson noted that the four cities that voted no all did so based on the formula, adding that the Technical Advisory Committee needed to address this issue and find a solution. Mayor Pro Tem Karl Baker, City of Desert Hot Springs, stated that given current finances it will be difficult for Desert Hot Springs to provide funds. Councilmember Ramos Watson stated that a joint meeting with the Executive Committee was needed and stated that this topic should be on the next meeting agenda of June 1<sup>st</sup>.

Aurora Wilson stated that this topic needed to be added to the agenda as an emergency item regarding city contribution and funding.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER KARL BAKER, CITY OF DESERT HOT SPRINGS, AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER JEAN BENSON, CITY OF PALM DESERT, TO ADD ITEM 6A, CITY CONTRIBUTIONS AND FUNDING FOR THE DESERT RESOURCE CENTER, TO THE MEETING AGENDA. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Councilmember Mullany stated that cities needed to commit to a formula. It was agreed that the Electeds and City Managers should review the matter of the city contribution formula together. Councilmember Ramos Watson noted that the Executive Committee's next meeting will be on June 1<sup>st</sup>. Committee members agreed that this topic should be brought before the Executive Committee at a joint meeting of the Homelessness Committee and the Executive Committee, either directly before the next Executive Committee meeting or as the first item on the Executive Committee's agenda.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER GINNY FOAT, CITY OF PALM SPRINGS, AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER KRISTY FRANKLIN, CITY OF LA QUINTA, TO DIRECT STAFF TO SCHEDULE A JOINT MEETING OF THE HOMELESSNESS COMMITTEE AND THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ON JUNE 1, 2009. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

#### **7. REVIEW OF DESERT RESOURCE CENTER FLOOR PLAN**

Amanda Keil distributed a checklist of Desert Resource Center floor plan concerns raised by Homelessness Committee members at the April 21, 2009 meeting. The issues related to four main topics:

- Shelter: including the need for a family sleeping area separate from single adults, family restroom to be accessible from outside the shelter, and the designation of a supervision area for staff;
- Access Center: including too many case management cubicles, the need for phones and/or a special message phone for clients to receive work-related calls, and the need for computers for client use for job searches and training;
- Children: the need for childcare and designated recreation areas for children;
- General: consider designing the second phase for cost savings

Pam Touschner of WWCOT Architects reviewed the revised floor plan for the Committee. She pointed out that dorm spaces had been added to the sleeping areas to address segregation of different types of persons (e.g. families with children) and to potentially provide for a supervisor's area.

Councilmember Ramos Watson asked about a children's area, stating that space needs to be set aside for this. Ms. Touschner stated that for homework and similar purposes, a multitude of spaces were available including the conference rooms, dining room, dorms, and the multi-purpose room. She noted that a licensed daycare program would have to meet certain requirements (e.g. sinks, indoor/outdoor space, etc) that Phase I plans do not currently address.

Concerns were expressed regarding restrooms and access. Councilmember Ginny Foat, City of Palm Springs, indicated that the Committee should not be determining

small details (e.g. doors) but only larger questions, such as whether key services are provided and during which phase. She stated that she believed that this plan provides for the items of importance. Leticia De Lara from County Supervisor Wilson's office explained that the County chose to bring this item back to the Committee to ensure that this was a collaborative effort.

Ms. Tuschner reviewed the second phase floor plan along with the functions that would be added in that phase. Councilmember Foat asked if the facility accommodated pets. Darla Burkett of the Coachella Valley Rescue Mission responded that experience has shown that it is not realistic to take in pets, adding that most shelters will take them in for a small fee while the owner is staying at a shelter.

An area for first aid was discussed. Ms. Keil indicated that a public health nurse can work out of the case management area and a dedicated area added in the future. Aurora Wilson noted that Desert Healthcare District is interested in being involved and possibly even funding a nurse's station.

Ms. De Lara stated that she was comfortable with the options and flexibility demonstrated in the current plan. Committee members concurred that the plan provided addresses the concerns previously expressed.

## **8. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The next regularly meeting of the Homelessness Committee is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2009 at the CVAG offices, 73-710 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 119, Palm Desert, California.

## **9. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patty Nevins, Interim Program Assistant  
Department of Community Resources (DCR)  
COACHELLA VALLEY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS