

**CITY OF SILVERTON
HOMELESS/HOUSING TASK FORCE MINUTES**

September 16, 2020, 6:00 p.m.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Kyle Palmer called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m. The task force members and staff were present through the virtual meeting platform Zoom. Mayor Palmer explained the meeting is being held through Zoom due to Governor Brown’s Executive Order 20-16.

Present	Absent	
X		Kyle Palmer
	Excused	Jaime Fuhrman
X		Sara White
X		Helen Thomas
X		Jess Miller
X		Dana Smith
X		Jennifer Hannan
X		Sarah DeSantis
X		Hilary Dumitrescu
	X	Karolle Hughes
	X	Joseph Schmaus

Staff Present:
Assistant to the City Manager/City Clerk, Angela Speier

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Member Smith made a motion to approve the minutes from the meeting held on September 2, 2020. Member Dumitrescu seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously (8-0).

III. PUBLIC COMMENT – None

IV. DISCUSS COMMUNITY SURVEY

Assistant to the City Manager/City Clerk Angela Speier sent draft questions to the Task Force members. Member Dumitrescu asked what the intention of the survey is for example is it to gauge people’s attitudes about homelessness in Silverton or is it to see if there is support for future transitional housing projects. Chair Palmer said he has long thought there needs to be an educational campaign in the community. He said it is hard to tell what people support and do not support. He would like to get as much raw data as possible about support for homelessness in general and the outreach that is happening. He would also like to gauge people’s opinion on the more specific topics that have been discussed by the Task Force. He feels the Task Force should ask all the questions they ever wanted answers to. He would like to hear both negative and positive feedback, in order to know how the Task Force should be approaching homeless outreach and support in the community. Member Smith would like to gauge overall community support while also using it as an educational tool, but at this point in time it might be better to make the survey narrower in focus due to the urgency of figuring out a solution for the upcoming winter. Member DeSantis said the Task Force should also set a level of expectation regarding how the data collected will be used moving forward. It needs to be clear there will not be enough resources to fund all the items listed in the survey.

The Task Force members reviewed the draft survey questions and provided feedback. The term housing instability was added throughout the survey. Member Dumitrescu said Sheltering Silverton is expecting to see an increase in the number of displaced and temporarily homeless individuals/households due to the recent fire. The members discussed adding headers to some of the question groups and ways to educate the survey participants, such as giving statistics regarding the number of rent burdened households in Silverton. A number of the questions were adjusted to reflect the discussion. Discussion ensued on a question regarding the best ways for communities to address residents' homelessness or housing instability and how to make sure it does not set unrealistic expectations.

Additional questions were added regarding how the community would be impacted by not addressing homelessness, as well as what people would be willing to do to help address homelessness.

Staff will send a clean version of the survey to the members for additional feedback. The members discussed possible public outreach methods, including but not limited to online and paper copies distributed at SACA and Sheltering Silverton. The members felt the online tool would be the best method for distribution.

V. SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING

The Task Force decided to schedule monthly meetings on the last Wednesday of the month. The next meeting will be held on October 28, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Member Smith made a motion to adjourn and Chair Palmer adjourned the meeting at 7:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

/s/Angela Speier, Assistant to the City Manager/City Clerk