

SHRC Meeting

05 SEPTEMBER 2024 / 5:46 PM-7:23PM / CITY COUNCIL

Attendees

COMMISSIONERS: Anwar Peace, Maria Hernandez-Peck, Brennan Schreibman, Livia Koh, Susan McFadden

Land Acknowledgement

Public Comment

Andres Grageda, legislative assistant to Councilmember Navarette: update on Member Expansion + Youth Commissioner ordinance, going to have first reading next Monday

- Set to be voted on September 30th

Agenda

Chair's Report

Presentation from Nicolette Ocheltree

- discussing the Homelessness Reponse System (SMC)
- presentation was also given to City Council
- signup for community roundtable on homelessness policies ends Sept 6, everyone is allowed to attend but must register to have a "seat" at the table

Sit and Lie – SMC 10.60.020

- makes it unlawful to sit or lie upon anything that is not designed for sitting
 - exceptions do exist
 - one exception allows homeless to do so in the case that there is no shelter space is available
- penalty is a misdemeanor
- ordinance is in effect in an area of downtown
- demonstrates a chart of sit-and-lie citations

Pedestrian Interference – SMC 10.60.010

Unauthorized Camping on Public Property – SMC 12.02.1010

- flowchart, goes from misdemeanor and depending on situation can be jailed, or can be cited and released

Enforcement – SMC 12.02.1010(c)

- Unlawful camping sections + protection against harm to waterways can be enforced at all times

Martin v. Boise case froze Spokane's right to enforce restrictions on homelessness when there isn't space at homeless shelters

- Supreme Court ruled that laws to prevent unlawful camping, etc. are not cruel and unusual punishment when shelters do not have beds
- Cities do not have to account for shelter space

Removal of Unauthorized Encampments – SMC 12.02.1011

- there are many code enforcement rules

EWU created a map outlining Proposition 1's bounds are

Title 18 sets up requirements for warming centers, basic rights for citizens in Spokane

- elaborates on the requirements for cooling/heating centers, safe air centers, as well as making the plan for these centers
- also discusses the screening process for homeless shelters

Siting of Basic City Facilities – SMC 12.05.062

- putting forth criteria before placing a new or relocated city-owned Homeless Shelter
- involves Equity Subcommittee on new guidelines
- Commissioner Schreiber asks about the enforcement of Title 18
 - current process explained, goes through multiple steps of determination
- Commissioner McFadden asks about bathrooms for homeless, how do we get bus service so that there's no fee/basic help to those who need it
 - find the councilmember champion if you'd like to make it into a law

- Commissioner Koh asks about meeting minutes
- Chair Peace thanks presenter, discusses the work of the commission in the context of homeless rights

Presentation from [Washington Low Income Housing Alliance](#) from Duaa-Rahemaah Hunter and Michele Thomas

- are doing a policy forum at SCC next Thursday (Sept 12)
- statewide organization with staff members across the state
- working on increasing housing stability and preventing homelessness
- advocates for state investments into affordable housing
- works to protect renters, improve housing security
- 2018 passed a bill to prevent discrimination based on income in renting
- advocating for rent stabilization
- Washington Housing Alliance Action Fund is a sister organization (c4 organization)
- have various programs across the state, hold meetings for Eastern Washington first Thursday every month @ Karl Maxey center at 4:00pm in person or Zoom
- Chair Peace thanks presenters for presentation and the work they are doing

Vacancy for Commission

- Justice Forral is the finalist candidate
- Commissioner Schreiber moves to formally recommend to the Mayor's Office to move forward with Justice Forral as the finalist candidate, Commissioner McFadden seconds
 - Motion Passes

Meeting Adjourned