

Attending: Jean Bogiages, Steven Solomon, JR Eppler, Ralph Migdal, Briony Doyle, Libby Dodd, Libby's guest, Mary Jane Mikuriya

The meeting opened at 7:00 with a discussion about the changes planned for the Potrero Hill Project by BRIDGE housing. The plan is to keep the 606 units of public housing with the rest being market rate or BMR. There is nothing additional in place for the currently homeless population.

Ralph asked for an update on the Navigation Center. Jean reported that it had opened late, but was in business now, first taking in folks in the Mission District. Mawuli, D10 Supervisor's aide, told Jean at the Booster's dinner, that a group was also taken from the design center area. People are staying longer, but in general things are going well. The Controller's office is collecting data. Jean suggested that we may want to talk to Julie Ledbetter, who is managing the center.

The discussion continued focusing on initiatives that may be on the November 2015 ballot. Mayor Lee and Supervisor Avalos are considering housing bonds of \$250M and \$500M respectively with a breakdown :

- Public Housing (2 people up to 40.75K/yr) - \$50M
- Low income housing ( 2 people up to 65K/yr) - \$100-150M
- Middle Income housing (2 people up to 140K/yr) – \$25M

The public housing amount would be to rehabilitate existing unused public housing. Avalos had the same categories, but double the amounts.

Also possible for this fall is an initiative that Mark Farrell spoke of that would address housing for homeless.

State AB 35 plans to increase the aggregate housing credit dollar amount that may be allocated among low income housing projects by \$300,000,000. The bill would take effect immediately as a tax levy.

We also noted that the Mayor will construct a 101 unit building in the Mission for Homeless Vets and low-income families.

The committee concurred that it was important to be specific about what type of funding we would like to see supported on the 2015 ballot this November. In particular we are looking to see an increase in funding for housing with services – supportive services and rehabilitative services. We do not think that the shelter systems is the answer, but feel that a room and a bathroom needs to be provided for folks who are living in the streets.

J.R. mentioned the Santa Clara County study that states that about 2,800 long-term homeless each cost the county \$83,000 annually. That study drove home the idea that providing a room and bathroom gives people that chance to pull their lives together much more than living on the streets or hopping from shelter to shelter does- and is cheaper. [http://www.mercurynews.com/breaking-news/ci\\_28192598/new-homeless-study-that-shows-financial-cost-also](http://www.mercurynews.com/breaking-news/ci_28192598/new-homeless-study-that-shows-financial-cost-also)

Libby talked about wanting to be able to identify types of homeless people and see if the services available were matching the needs. She proposed mapping the types of homeless in our neighborhood in order to let the city know what types of services were needed.

Briony gave an example of the enormous amount of paperwork that is currently being done by folks working in homeless service organizations to document who is being served and the services that are receiving.

Briony suggested that we contact other people who are working with homeless and get their support for our initiatives.

Mary Jane felt it is important to educate everyone on who is homeless and what services are available.

Concern was expressed over that fact that there is no direct voter control of the services for homeless. Services are performed by non-profits that are hired through contacts with the city agencies, HAS and DPH. There is no service agency that interfaces with the neighborhoods.

The discussion turned to trying to figure out what we as a group could do.

Mary Jane suggested that we start a column in the Potrero View that strives to present what is being done for homeless folks and also share stories of folks who are homeless. It was suggested that Jean write the article with Steven editing. Everyone else also offered to help edit. We need to come up with a name for the column. July would be the first edition we could reach

The other area we might be able to affect is the content of the initiatives that will be on the 2015 ballot. Rather than pick Lee or Avalos version of a housing bond, we might support and in between value \$350M? with 20% focusing on housing with services for homeless. This is not low income housing and it is not shelters. It could be a room with a bathroom and with supportive/rehabilitative services.

Both Farrell and Avalos are working on homeless support. We should write to them suggesting our interest and our willingness to work to support an initiative that would be on the ballot.

#### Action Items

1. Come up with a name for a monthly article in the homeless issue in the Potrero View
2. Jean writes an article and the group edits.
3. Jean writes letters to Avalos and Farrell asking for a change in the proposed housing bond ballot which would ask for: \$350M with 20% addressed towards units for homeless individuals which include a bathroom and supportive and rehabilitative services.
4. The committee will review and edit the letters.
5. Following that Jean will write to Kim and Cohen.
6. Briony and the rest of the committee will come up with names of others working on the homeless issue that we could reach out to and ask for support.

Notes submitted by Jean Bogiages