



Berkeley Homeless  
Commission

## MEETING MINUTES

May 11, 2016

1. Roll Call: 7:00PM

**Present:** Bastone, Feller, Kealoha-Blake, Marasovic, Orgain.

**Absent:** Davis, Peterson (excused).

**Staff:** Vasquez, Wicker

**Public:** 3

2. Comments from the Public

One comment.

3. Approval of Minutes for meeting of April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

**Action:** M/S/C Orgain/Feller to approve the minutes of April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2016, as written.

**Vote:** Ayes: Feller, Kealoha-Blake, Marasovic, Orgain.

*Noes:* None. *Abstain:* Bastone. *Absent:* Davis, Peterson.

### Update/Action Items

4. Agenda Approval

**Action:** M/S/C Orgain/Feller to approve the agenda.

**Vote:** Ayes: Bastone, Feller, Kealoha-Blake, Marasovic, Orgain.

*Noes:* None. *Abstain:* None. *Absent:* Davis, Peterson.

5. Election of Vice Chair

Commissioner Kealoha-Blake nominated Commissioner Orgain for Vice Chair.

**Vote:** Ayes: Bastone, Feller, Kealoha-Blake, Marasovic, Orgain.

*Noes:* None. *Abstain:* None. *Absent:* Davis, Peterson.

6. Council referral to the Homeless Commission to consider feasibility of "Tiny Homes" project in Berkeley.

Presentation by Betsy Morris, Ph.D.

**Action:** M/S/C Kealoha-Blake/Bastone to support the concept of a "Tiny Homes" development in Berkeley.

**Vote:** Ayes: Bastone, Feller, Kealoha-Blake, Marasovic, Orgain.

*Noes:* None. *Abstain:* None. *Absent:* Davis, Peterson.

**Action:** M/S/C Orgain/Feller to further recommend that City Council pass enabling ordinances that will allow Tiny Homes and Tiny Home communities to be established in Berkeley for the purpose of housing people who are homeless.

**Vote:** Ayes: Bastone, Feller, Kealoha-Blake, Marasovic, Orgain.

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Noes: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Davis, Peterson.

7. Finding rental housing for people with subsidies in current rental market

Presentation by Sage Foster, Housing Specialist from the Berkeley Food and Housing Project.

**Action:** M/S/C Orgain/Marasovic to recommend that City Council help promote access to rental housing in Berkeley for people who are homeless with rental subsidies through the following initiatives:

- 1) Provide public recognition to property owners who rent units to people with rental subsidies who are low income and homeless;
- 2) Establish a "risk mitigation fund" that would encourage property owners to rent to people with rental subsidies by mitigating any financial loss due to property damage, unpaid rent, or legal costs.
- 3) Encourage master-leasing as a model to expand direct access to rental housing for people who are homeless in Berkeley.

**Vote:** Ayes: Bastone, Feller, Kealoha-Blake, Marasovic, Orgain.  
Noes: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Davis, Peterson.

8. Review City protocol for confiscating and storing unattended personal property  
Item was not discussed and will be taken up at the next meeting.

9. Update on the FY17 City budget

Jennifer Vasquez, Health, Housing and Community Services Department, provided an update on mid-year budget that went to Council on May 10<sup>th</sup>. Discussion, no action taken.

10. HUD funding update for the Alameda County Continuum of Care  
Discussion, no action taken.

11. Update from the Grievance Subcommittee.  
Item tabled until the next meeting.

12. Discuss Commission's process for review and evaluation of community agency requests for funding during the City's upcoming bidding process  
Discussion, no action taken.

13. Propose agenda items for next meeting:

- Discuss Commission's process for review and evaluation of community agency requests for funding during the City's upcoming bidding process
- Continue discussion of City's policy for storage of unattended property, with an invitation to staff from City Manager's office

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- Update on Tiny Homes initiatives in Berkeley
- Homeless Task Force update

14. Adjourn @ 9:30PM

Minutes Approved on: June 8, 2016

Andrew Wicker, Commission Secretary: 

