



## Whatcom County Housing Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

**Meeting Date/Time/Location:** February 11, 2021 8:30 AM to 10:00 AM – Virtual Meeting

**WCHAC Members Present:** Brien Thane, Samya Lutz, Michael Jones, Anne Deacon, Tara Sundin, Teri Bryant, Hadrian Starr, Kyle Christensen, Diana Phair

**WCHAC Members Absent:** Satpal Sidhu, Karen Burke

**Whatcom Co. Health Dept. Staff/Guests:** Ann Beck, Chris D’Onofrio, Barbara Johnson-Vinna, Ashley Geleyne / Von E.O., Riley Sweeney, Helen Campbell, Michael Lilliquist, Paul Schissler, Deanna Wildermuth, Dean Fearing, Rachel Munroe, Ashley Thomasson, Nate Stanford

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action/Who
<b>A. Call to order, introductions</b>	Introductions commenced and quorum present.	Brien
<b>B. Minutes Approval</b> January 2021 Minutes Approval	Samya moved that the minutes from the January meeting be approved. Anne seconded the motion. The committee voted and the motion passed.	<b>Ayes: 9 Abstain: 0</b> <b>Motion Passed</b>
<b>C. Agenda Review</b>	No additions to agenda.	Brien
<b>D. Election of new chairperson and vice-chairperson</b>	Anne nominated Brien Thane for chairperson of the committee. There were no other nominations. Anne moved to nominate Brien Thane for chairperson of the committee, Samya seconded. The committee voted and the motion passed.  Anne moved to nominate Michael Jones as vice-chairperson of the committee, Samya seconded. The committee voted and the motion passed.	<b>Ayes: 9 Abstain: 0</b> <b>Motion Passed</b>
<b>E. Membership Update</b>	Three nominations have been recommended to Executive’s office.	Chris





Agenda Item	Discussion	Action/Who
<p>4. 1406 Update and Priorities Discussion</p>	<p>will be due mid-March after a conference is held to answer questions for any prospective applicants.</p> <p>Anne is looking for solid recommendations for use of 1406 funds in four to five-year phases. 1406 is a 20-year fund, and we can collect up to a maximum of \$680k in sales tax per year. At the January meeting, a motion was passed to set aside 40% of funding over the next five years for a capital project outside of the City of Bellingham. The City of Bellingham convened a meeting with County staff, Lydia Place, Opportunity Council, and the Housing Authority to discuss rental assistance. The City's perspective is that there is not enough money for rental assistance, and recommends the remaining 60% for 2020 and 2021 be used for rental assistance for families with children, especially those who have been placed in motels awaiting permanent housing. The committee discussed the rental assistance, case management, and how we can maximize funds collaboratively with the potential of more funds coming in. Tara moved that city and county staff bring back a proposal that focuses the 60% of 2020 and 2021 1406 funds on serving families with children. Michael seconded the motion. Samya added a friendly amendment to clarify that this allotment includes the remaining amount, since a portion of the money was spent out in contracts last year. The committee voted and the motion passed. Now that there are recommendations for 1406 funds over the next two years, county staff will first inform County Council of the strategy, develop programs and contracts, and then bring those contracts to Council.</p>	<p>Anne</p> <p>Tara</p> <p>All</p> <p><b>Ayes: 9 Abstain: 0 Motion Passed</b></p>
<p>5. City Update</p>	<p>The City of Bellingham had a number of notices of funding availability postings that closed on January 25<sup>th</sup>. Final decisions will not be made until the end of April and into May. The requests total over \$10M in funding. Michael Lilliquist reported that the County Council took the state allowed maximum \$1M dollars in REET to be available for the biennium for capital aspects of housing projects.</p>	<p>Samya</p> <p>Michael L</p>
<p>6. WHSC Update</p>	<p>The City's Warming Center at Depot Market Square has been open for two nights, with four people there the first night, and 17 there the second; the City is recruiting volunteers to run the Center. The HOT team is visiting twice a day, and staff are providing training and support. Additionally, WHSC is actively recruiting for landlord liaison.</p>	
<p><b>G. Public Comment</b></p>	<p>City of Ferndale is considering an affordable housing levy modeled after the Bellingham HOME Fund, totaling about \$712k per year. The goal is to get it on 2021 general election ballot.</p>	<p>Riley</p>

**WHATCOM COUNTY**  
Health Department



Erika Lautenbach, Director  
Greg Stern, M.D., Health Officer

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action/Who
H. ADJOURN	9:20am	Brien
<i>NEXT MEETING</i>	<b>Next regular meeting April 8, 2021, 8:30 – 10:00 a.m.</b> <b><u>VIRTUAL</u></b>	

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