



**City of Davis
Social Services Commission Minutes
Monday, July 19, 2021, 7:00 P.M.**

1. Call to Order

Chair Vaitla called the meeting to order at 7:03pm

Commissioners present: Judith Ennis, Vice Chair; Rachael Fulp-Cooke; Julia Mouat; Alana O'Brien; Susan Perez; Jenna Shaw-Battista; Bapu Vaitla, Chair; Judy Wong-Chen (Alternate)

Commissioners absent: None

Others Present: Dagoberto Fierros, Management Analyst

2. Approval of Agenda

Fulp-Cooke moved, Perez seconded the approval of the agenda. Motion passed by the following vote:

AYES: Ennis, Fulp-Cooke, Mouat, O'Brien, Perez, Shaw-Battista, Vaitla

NOES:

ABSENT:

3. Brief Announcements from Staff, Commissioners, and Liaisons

A. Introduction of New Commissioners

Existing and New Commissioner introduced themselves and stated their areas of interest in the Commission.

Fierros stated that Staff will be presenting 2021-2022 Council Focus Items at the July 20, 2021 Council meeting. City Council will also be receiving a presentation from Nolan Sullivan of Yolo Health and Human Services for the use of Pacifico for the CalWORKS program.

4. Public Comment

None.

5. Consent Items

A. Approval of Minutes – June 21, 2021

Fulp-Cooke moved, with a second by Ennis for approval of the minutes. Motion passed by the following vote:

Fulp-Cooke moved, Perez seconded the approval of the agenda. Motion passed by the following vote:

AYES: Ennis, Fulp-Cooke, Mouat, O'Brien, Perez, Shaw-Battista, Vaitla

NOES:

ABSENT:

6. Regular Items

A. Davis Homelessness Alliance Presentation: Emergency Shelter in Davis

Linda Scott and Patti Hobbs, Co-Chairs of the Davis Homelessness Emergency Shelter working group (DHA-ES), shared brief history of homelessness programs in Davis. Hobbs discussed the three proposed options for a winter emergency shelter:

- Status Quo – No emergency shelter for Winter 2021*
- Scattered Sites – 3 or 4 bedroom houses*
- Pacifico – 25 rooms and staff offices*

Hobbs discussed the pros and cons of each option and stated the following Commission action requests:

- 1. Recommend City Council pursue an emergency shelter in Davis.*
- 2. Recommend City Council use Pacifico for an emergency shelter for 2021-2022 as the only viable option for this winter.*
- 3. Aggressively pursue and all sources of funding for emergency shelters including City ARPA funds, grants, other local funds, apply for any state dollars that may become available through the governor's budget, and any money that becomes available through HPAC.*

Public Comment: None

Fulp-Cooke expressed support for the proposal to utilize Pacifico but also shared concerns over neighborhood backlash. Patti Hobbs stated that community engagement with the neighborhood will be important.

Sarah Danley, Davis Emergency Shelter Program Manager, stated that the previous and existing programs under HEART of Davis/Interfaith Rotating Winter Shelter have received minimal complaints.

Shaw-Battista asked if there is overlap between recipients under the CalWORKS program and families in the Davis Emergency Shelter Program that will be utilizing the Pacifico site if approved.

O'Brien asked if DHA will be primarily looking into a single site such as Pacifico or will there be a combination that includes utilizing scattered sites while Pacifico is being renovated. Hobbs said HEART is exploring all options.

Wong-Chen asked for clarification on the extent of renovations that need to be completed at Pacifico and if that timeline matches DHA's proposed timeline to utilize the building.

Ennis asked if the Pacifico building is able to equip the varying living styles and companionships of the participants. Danley stated that Pacifico works very well for addressing the issue.

Perez stated that long-term solutions should be of highest consideration. Linda Scott stated that over the past 14 years IRWS has made it its goal to obtain a year-around permanent location for the program.

Wong-Chen asked for the projected timeframe that the CalWORKS program plans for use of Pacifico. Response was that goal was to move participants in in January. The DHA proposal requests that HEART of Davis runs their program from January to March in one of the buildings, thus postponing the start of the CalWORKS program until April.

Ennis moved to support the DHA recommendation to use Pacifico as an emergency shelter in the winter.

- Vaitla suggested an amendment that in addition to the additional motion that the commission support the County's CalWorks proposal to use one building at Pacifico at the start of their program and both building in the long term after the winter emergency shelter has ceased operations at Pacifico.*
- Shaw Battista suggested a friendly amendment that the City Council also support an equivalent alternative to Pacifico if an alternative is found.*
- Perez suggested a friendly amendment that the City Council continue to pursue a permanent emergency shelter.*

Ennis withdrew the original motion.

Ennis made a motion to urge the City Council to pursue a permanent emergency shelter in Davis and support the DHA recommendation to use one of the vacant buildings at Pacifico as a short-term emergency shelter this immediate winter. Fulp-Cooke seconded the motion.

Motion passed by the following vote:

AYES: Ennis, Fulp-Cooke, Mouat, O'Brien, Perez, Shaw-Battista, Vaitla

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

Various commissioners were not ready to move forward with an amendment to also support the CalWORKS proposal at Pacifico because the CalWORKS proposal was not on the commission agenda and the CalWORKS proposal was not scheduled to be presented to the City Council until July 20, 2021.

B. Commission Work Plan Overview

Ennis and Fulp-Cooke shared with the commission an overview of the current commission work plan and how it was developed. Guiding Principles, Objectives, and Proposed Activities were briefly presented

Public Comment: None

O'Brien stated that many groups in the City that advocate for affordable housing have historically been missing out on the power and energy that students at UC Davis have on affordable housing. Many students at UC Davis can relate to the affordable housing issues in Davis. O'Brien also suggested that the commission work plan should include building stronger relationships with students and student bodies at UC Davis in regards to affordable housing advocacy.

Perez encouraged the commission to be more proactive in achieving the objectives that are listed in the work plan.

Fulp-Cooke would like to establish a multi-year strategic planning process when creating future commission work plans.

Shaw-Battista expressed support to the idea of being a more proactive commission. Shaw-Battista would like the commission to emphasize on issues, under the commission's purview, that are beyond just affordable housing.

Vaitla shared brief history on the commission's previous work plans.

C. Update Subcommittee Tasks

Vaitla briefed the commission on the importance of establishing subcommittees.

Fulp-Cooke shared the status and results of the Davis social services organizations survey. Ennis shared the outreach subcommittee's 2021-2022 Community Outreach and Engagement Proposal.

Public Comment:

Public Commenter asked if the outreach subcommittee can have a public forum instead of a survey in the future. The Public Commenter did not state their name for the record

Discussion ensued between commissioners.

Ennis moved to create a subcommittee that is focused on developing an Environmental Scan. Vaitla seconded.

Motion passed by the following vote:

Fulp-Cooke moved, Perez seconded the approval of the agenda.

Motion passed by the following vote:

AYES: Ennis, Fulp-Cooke, Mouat, O'Brien, Perez, Shaw-Battista, Vaitla

NOES:

ABSENT:

The Environmental Scan Subcommittee will include commissioners: Shaw-Battista, Fulp-Cooke, and Wong-Chen.

O'Brien moved to create an unarmed crisis response subcommittee that explores the feasibility of creating a joint program between City, County, and University.

Vaitla second. Motion passed by the following vote:

AYES: Ennis, Fulp-Cooke, Mouat, O'Brien, Perez, Shaw-Battista, Vaitla

NOES:

ABSENT:

The Unarmed Crisis Response Subcommittee will include commissioners: Vaitla, Perez, and O'Brien.

Ennis moved to create a subcommittee that focuses on the task of creating recommendations of American Rescue Plan Act funding to City Council. Perez seconded.

Motion passed by the following vote:

AYES: Ennis, Fulp-Cooke, Mouat, O'Brien, Perez, Shaw-Battista, Vaitla

NOES:

ABSENT:

The American Rescue Plan Act Subcommittee will include commissioners: Ennis, Mouat, and Shaw-Battista.

9:00pm Vaitla moved to continue the meeting until the end of the agenda. Perez seconded.

Motion passed by the following vote:

AYES: Ennis, Fulp-Cooke, Mouat, O'Brien, Perez, Shaw-Battista, Vaitla

NOES:

ABSENT:

Vaitla expressed interest in various issues that relate to social services. Vaitla showed much interest in pursuing municipal reparations in Davis. Fulp-Cooke stated that the focus of municipal reparations has to be extraordinarily narrow in order to have the highest chance of success. Vaitla stated that housing will be the focus of the municipal reparations.

Vaitla moved to create a subcommittee that focuses on a feasibility study of municipal reparations that also investigates the history of housing discrimination in Davis and what is being done by other municipalities and institutions. Fulp-Cooke seconded the motion.

Motion passed by the following vote:

AYES: Ennis, Fulp-Cooke, Mouat, O'Brien, Perez, Shaw-Battista, Vaitla

NOES:

ABSENT:

The Municipal Reparations Subcommittee will include commissioners: Vaitla and Ennis.

O'Brien moved to create a subcommittee that will explore and report on the creation of possible avenues of collaboration with university student advocacy groups, including but not limited to the UC Davis affordable housing task force. Ennis seconded.

Motion passed by the following vote:

AYES: Ennis, Fulp-Cooke, Mouat, O'Brien, Perez, Shaw-Battista, Vaitla

NOES:

ABSENT:

The University Student Advocacy Groups Outreach Subcommittee will include commissioners: O'Brien and Mouat.

Public Comment: Public Commenter stated that public comments should be taken before any votes are taken. Vaitla clarified that the public comment period was open and closed before commission discussion. The Public Commenter also stated that the crisis now programs are going to happen anyway so there is not much need to focus so much on the item. The Public Commenter also expressed the support of the creation of a Public Safety Officer. The Public Commenter did not state their name for the record

7. Additional Subcommittee Updates

A. Affordable Housing – No update

B. Awareness and Outreach – No update

C. Evidence/Research/Grants – No update

D. Joint Subcommittee on Public Health and Safety – *No update*

8. Commission and Staff Communications

A. Development Projects and Affordable Housing Properties Update

Fierros gave a brief update on activity related to affordable housing properties.

B. Social Services Commission Long Range Calendar

Fulp-Cooke asked to include a mental health presentation from Davis Joint Unified School District in the September meeting.

Public Comment: Public Commenter expressed support for municipal reparations and suggested affordable housing be built at the Mace curve that supports certain ethnicities, teachers, or individuals dealing with marital issues such as domestic violence. The Public Commenter did not state their name for the record.

9. Adjourn

Perez moved, with a second by Fulp-Cooke, to adjourn.

Motion passed by the following vote:

AYES: Ennis, Fulp-Cooke, Mouat, O'Brien, Perez, Shaw-Battista, Vaitla

NOES:

ABSENT:

The meeting adjourned at 9:29pm.