

EASTSIDE INTERFAITH SOCIAL CONCERNS COUNCIL (EISCC)
GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, March 8, 2022 - Noon-1:30 PM (Pacific Time) - Virtual

- **Opening Prayer:** Steve Roberts
- **Self Introductions:** See attached chat for names, organizations, contact information
- **Mayoral Presentations--**
- **Redmond Mayor Angela Birney**
 - Offered gratitude for the work of the community, noted how it complements the work of the city and makes the city stronger.
 - She sits on the Regional Homeless Authority Board Governing Committee, consisting of 12 individuals--they are reaching out into the community and taking an inventory of what is being done and what is needed
 - Hired a Homeless Outreach Coordinator who would be happy to meet with individual groups
 - COR doesn't want people to be comfortable in their homelessness. Their goal is to support people in receiving the services they need that really support them.
 - Newest Achievement is Health Through Housing: Hotels purchased by King County for providing supportive housing for people experiencing homelessness/living on the edge. County is looking for partners to serve as providers.
- **Bellevue Deputy Mayor Jared Nieuwenhuis (see attached presentation)**
 - Came prepared to discuss affordable housing and human services
 - Bellevue is known for having a real high quality of life, this is something they have planned
 - Is developing a 20 year plan to address how the city can support community member needs
 - City of Bellevue awarded \$11M during the pandemic in the areas of critical need, including rent assistance, food, shelter, behavioral health services, childcare subsidies and legal advocacy. In 2022, COB provided approximately \$4.7M to the continuum of human services from the Human Services fund.
 - The city partners with >40 agencies to fund over 60 programs to provide health and human services primarily for low and moderate income residents.
 - Ground has been broken on the Eastgate Housing Complex, expected to open in 2023
 - Working on adopting land use code amendments required by state law that will allow emergency housing and emergency shelter in all land use districts
 - Mary's Place opened a shelter in downtown Bellevue in December 2021
 - Hired Nathan Horton as Homeless Outreach Coordinator who is talking to people experiencing homelessness in the Bellevue community
- **Issaquah Mayor Mary Lou Pauly**
 - Echoed Mayor Birney's thanks and acknowledgement of the importance of community efforts and participation in meeting the needs of the community
 - Is serving her 5th year as Mayor, served 4 years on council and 20 years on development commission. Has spent a lot of time looking at the needs of her city. Is very excited about the Regional Housing Authority and its perspective on the differing needs of Eastside cities.
 - By watching the actions of larger cities, smaller cities like Issaquah are able to develop unique plans for their geographic areas. Ie. Development of "faith community" properties where multiple services can be offered in one building on one property.
 - Established first behavioral health homeless outreach program, first human services strategic plan the city has ever had
 - Used the vast amounts of green fields in Issaquah to work with a developer in the building of shelter, 30% are designated for affordable housing. Central Support Plan provides that any new residential community has to provide 12% of its for affordable housing (80% AMI). Conditions

are not always what is desired, so working together is imperative to meeting the needs of the community.

- **Q&A Session**

- Donna (NAMI): Is there an effort to create a regional crisis response center?
 - Mayor Birney – KCRHA currently collecting data to support this
- Esperanza Borboa (ELAP): How are you dealing with people, especially communities of color, relocating to other, more affordable areas?
 - Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis: Would prefer that people not have to relocate for this purpose. Is hopeful that the city's needs assessment will help to better meet community needs. I am happy to provide any available metrics to you.
 - Mayor Pauley: 39% of our residents in Issaquah are renters. Believes that people will reside where mass transit is available. Regional zoning power is needed in these areas to guarantee affordable housing. For profit builders are not likely to agree to 40% goal set by county.
 - Mayor Pauley: We do have a non-English speaker participating on the board with a translator which is helping to strengthen community communications.
- Elizabeth Maupin – What are the plans to provide affordable housing for those living at or below the poverty line?
 - Mayor Pauley: Cities can negotiate trade-offs in development agreements for a higher inclusionary zoning number of affordable units. What the city needs is the cooperation of large landowners and partners who produce housing. Integrated housing is another possibility.
- John-Otto Lijestolpe – What percentage of your annual budgets are focused on human services?
 - Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis: I believe Bellevue's % is 1%. I would like to see it increased to 2%. More attention is needed on the 0-50% AMI community.
 - Mayor Pauley: Issaquah has a hodgepodge of properties that they either rent or give to different nonprofits for their use. We are looking at the possibility of using one building which would provide housing, civic campus and services in one place.

- **Announcements**

- Tammy (Nourishing Networks): Kirkland NN – 4th Monday monthly. Contact Tammy if interested in attending any NN gatherings for your respective areas.
- Donna (NAMI): partners with Evergreen Health and offers a speaker/topic at monthly meeting

- **Closing Prayer:** Rev. Patty Ebner

In Service,

Rev. Patty Ebner
President Elect, EISCC

UPCOMING 2nd TUES. EISCC MTGS.: April 12, 2022, Mental Health Support and Services

EISCC BOARD MEMBERS 2021-2022—President: Steve Roberts, Bellevue Presbyterian; Past President and Eastside Human Services Forum Rep: Linda Hillesheim, Unity of Bellevue; President Elect: Rev. Patty Ebner, First Congregational Church, Bellevue; Secretary: Elizabeth Maupin, Spirit of Peace; Treasurer: Warren Marquardson, The Church of Latter-Day Saints of Jesus Christ; Judy Backmaster, St. Luke's Lutheran; Outreach: Farida Hakim, Islamic Center of Eastside Mosque and the Muslim Association of Puget Sound Mosque; At Large: Rabbi Molly Weisel, Temple B'nai Torah.

BOARD CONTACT: eastsideinterfaith@gmail.com.

EISCC Mission Statement--Members of Eastside Interfaith Social Concerns Council (EISCC) believe we are guided by the moving of God's spirit in our community to work together in a spirit of caring and celebration. We honor and respect each other's religious heritages, welcome and pray for each other, and share information about pressing community needs. We provide a forum to educate, advocate, initiate, coordinate, and support through task forces and other means, to work for the common good, and to address human needs and improve the quality of life of the citizens living in the Eastside communities.