



MEETING SUMMARY
STAYTON HOMELESS TASK FORCE
Community Listening Session

Monday, April 10, 2023

Stayton Community Center
400 W. Virginia Street
Stayton, Oregon 97383

City Manager Julia Hajduk opened the meeting and asked Task Force Members to introduce themselves. She then provided an overview of the purpose and scope of the Task Force. She reviewed handout materials that had been provided at the front of the room (and are attached at the end of this summary).

The floor was opened up for comments and three people presented information to the whole group:

Wendy Stone

525 N. Myrtle Ave.

Stayton, OR 97383

Representing Santiam Heritage Foundation – Brown House

Starting to see an issue with homeless individuals around the Brown House. An individual entered the Brown House unlawfully (door was left unlocked). Ms. Stone told the individual that he must leave and that he was trespassing. He became irritated. The biggest issue is the trash that is left around the outside of the house. Ms. Stone has sympathy for those who have no control over the situation.

Wendy Leedle

625 E Marion St

Stayton, OR 97383

Works in social services and lives near the park. She sees people (homeless) cleaning up after themselves. She does not see needles or trash. She does see them using the bathroom at Pioneer Park. Don't group all the homeless into one group, they are individuals.

Mark Fery

PO Box 127

Stayton, OR 97383

Thanked the City and Stayton Police Department for their response. He feels things have gotten better. The homeless are here – we are a hub. The homeless he has spoken to want a warm, safe place to be. If there is a way to accommodate, we should work at that.

After taking public comment, the task force members were broken up into four small groups and audience members invited to join a group to share and discuss their thoughts in a more informal setting. Afterwards, the task force reconvened and reported out what they heard in their small groups:

Group 1 (Jared, Kim...)

Motorhome/Cars parking.
Concerns for safety.
Find equity and balance for the whole community.

Group 2 (David Giglio, Tricia, Becky...)

Provide purpose and legitimacy to homeless.
Creative solutions.
Separate between who are residents or are just traveling through.
Safety concerns; Theft – Cars stolen. Are cars registered?
Increasing support and services may attract more homeless.
Do not enable them to stay homeless.

Group 3 (Mark, Adam, Cari...)

Safety; Impact on businesses when homeless are in the area.
Different types of homeless.
Provide a limited area for homeless with strings attached.
Lack of resources – lack of spiritual resources.
No warm or cooling centers in the area.
If we don't want them on sidewalks or parks, where do they go?
Places for people to park who are working but not making enough to secure housing.

Group 4 (Ben, Sonja...)

Community Support. If we provide services, are we enabling the behavior?
Safety.
What is the money source if services are offered?

The task force and group then had additional discussion on the topic including:

Questions on public property and shelter. "No barrier" shelters.
Time restrictions in parks; overnight camping (sleeping on slides and tables).
Communication with homeless.