CITY OF ISSAQUAH
Human Services Commission
SUMMARY MINUTES

October 25, 2016

City Hall/Police Station
Eagle Room, First Floor

130 E. Sunset Way
Issaquah, WA 98027

MEMBERS PRESENT	**ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF PRESENT**
Derek Franklin, Chair Ana Jiménez-Inman Loretta Jancoski Elizabeth Maupin Christine Weber	Susan Lowe, Recording Secretary Martha Sassorossi, HS and Social Sustainability Coord. David Fujimoto, Sustainability Director
MEMBERS NOT PRESET Radiya Noor Monic Payne	**VISITORS PRESENT**

CALL TO ORDER
FRANKLIN, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES
JANCOSKI moved to approve the minutes of September 27, 2016. JANCOSKI seconded. MOTION carried.

CHAIR REPORT
Student Commissioner Selection
FRANKLIN reported that he, WEBER, Sassorossi, and Fujimoto interviewed a candidate for the position of Student Commissioner and plan to offer her the position. She is a student at Issaquah High School, he added, and staff will be in touch with her about attending the next meeting. JIMÉNEZ-INMAN asked can Student Commissioners remain on the Commission once they finish high school. Fujimoto said there are no formal rules, but past practice has been to work through the City's Youth Advisory Board, which focuses its outreach efforts on high school students. JIMÉNEZ-INMAN asked whether DECA is part of the City's outreach in seeking potential Student Commissioners. Fujimoto said he was not sure exactly how the Youth Advisory Board does its outreach, but can get more details about how it interacts with DECA specifically.

Joint Meeting on Housing Strategy (Human Services, Economic Vitality, and Policy Planning Commissions)
FRANKLIN thanked JIMÉNEZ-INMAN and MAUPIN for attending the October 20 joint meeting, and noted that MAUPIN also participated in a focus group for small businesses. MAUPIN gave feedback on her perceptions of the focus group and the joint meeting. She said the City seemed primarily interested in how the lack of affordable housing is impacting employers in terms of being able to attract and retain employees. The fact that employees often drive great distances to work in the City because they can't afford to live here was a recurring theme, she said. At the

focus group, she continued, an employer gave his experience of bringing in new employees, investing in and training them, only to find they would transfer to a location nearer where they live at their earliest opportunity.

FRANKLIN said he participated in housing strategy focus groups for larger businesses and for the Issaquah School District. He said he heard similar themes, namely that housing issues for big employers was a generally challenging issue. He said participants from Swedish, for example, said that retaining nursing staff who work long shifts of three days on and three days off did not pose as large a problem for them because they commute outside of peak hours, but they did have problems retaining support staff who deal with daily traffic hassles and the high cost of housing in the city. He continued Costco reported similar themes of having trouble recruiting people to work at their Issaquah store because of the high cost of housing. He said employers did mention that the city's proximity to nature, hiking opportunities, and so on was a recruitment tool, but that was accompanied by sticker shock at the cost of housing.

MAUPIN added at the joint meeting, participants discussed that as housing becomes more expensive, traffic also gets worse. People feel comfortable driving about 20 to 30 minutes from home to work, but those times have lengthened considerably for the same distances because of traffic. She said participants also discussed the issue of having few first responders and service providers, such as fire fighters, living in the community in which they work because of the high cost of housing, and the benefits of having those workers integrated into the community.

JIMÉNEZ-INMAN said she expected the joint meeting to offer more answers rather than raise so many questions. She said her perception is that unless there is some regulation on rents, rents will continue to go up, and skilled people will move out of the area.

MAUPIN said she got a positive response at the joint meeting when she expressed how large employers are beginning to show interest in creating housing for their employees, which would help reduce traffic and make it possible for people to live where they work. She said she felt that the joint meeting was an opportunity for the City staff to hear what participants are thinking and experiencing about housing so they can then do some research around the ideas and thoughts that were expressed.

FRANKLIN also described some of the themes he heard during the meeting and noted that video from the joint meeting is available from the City's web site. He said he particularly appreciated the point MAUPIN made at the meeting about the inevitable connection between growth and the need for human services, particularly affordable housing.

STAFF REPORT
Senior Services
Sassorossi gave an update on the Senior Expo held September 17. She noted that six different workshops were offered, and while attendance was low to moderate, we learned some lessons and expect to hold another one next fall.

She reported the Mayor's proposed budget that went to Council for deliberation included $164,000 for Senior Services in 2017. That level of funding is expected to be adequate to continue and expand on existing senior services programming, which grew a bit in 2016. If there is a significant change in the senior center facility in 2017, she continued, that level of funding is expected to cover what will be required administratively. MAUPIN asked who is currently operating the Center. Sassorossi replied the facility is being operated by Issaquah Valley Seniors (IVS). She said City leadership did meet with the IVS Board last week, and expects to

meet again with them soon. Fujimoto added the City's goal is to make sure that the Senior Center and services for seniors continue. The first step in that process is to ensure that adequate budget is in place, he continued. It is the Mayor's intention to make sure that services for seniors are available, he clarified. FRANKLIN asked to what extent programming has been modified under the Senior Center leadership. Sassorossi briefly explained the changes. JIMÉNEZ-INMAN asked why the Community Center charges for its field trips and activities. Sassorossi replied they operate on a cost-recovery model; the funding in the City's budget doesn't cover all of their operating expenses. Fujimoto noted they do have a scholarship program available, and information about it is included in their program materials.

Region Updates
Sassorossi reported that both the emergency women's and emergency family shelters opened October 15. Catholic Community Service's New Bethlehem Day Center will have its grand opening on November 16. No date has been set yet for the opening of the emergency shelter for men, as there are still some tenant improvements that need to be made, but once they are completed, both the overnight and day center will operate at the same location. Sassorossi explained that state zoning requirements limit the overnight facility to operating just six months out of the year.

Sassorossi reported a contract is in place with Catholic Community Services for the East King County Regional Access Point, part of the Coordinated Entry for All (CEA) program. She continued they are in the process now of getting up and running, including training staff and working with other programs. MAUPIN asked where they will be located. Sassorossi said she will follow up with that information.

FRANKLIN reported he attended a funding workshop last week hosted by Alliance for Eastside Agencies about seeking funding from Best Start for Kids, the Veterans & Human Services Levy, and other sources.

Sassorossi reported she has joined a policy advisory committee on CEA, which will focus its efforts on identifying adjustments to the All Home system.

Fujimoto commented on the City Council's long-standing goal of a safe and drug-free community, and specifically about its concern about opioid abuse in the community. He briefly described the recommendations from the office of Brad Finegood, King County Public Health for prevention, treatment expansion, and health services/overdose prevention. He gave more details about the scope of the opioid problem in our region and how King County's prevention program is intended to address it. He noted that one controversial suggestion is to identify two "safe drug use" locations, one in Seattle and one to be determined. He said another facet of the program is to work with first responders to be able to administer a drug that quickly counteracts drug overdoses. He noted the City has recently hired an intern who will be helping staff collect information over the next few weeks on the City's issues with opioid use.

JANCOSKI reported on her participation at a King County Veteran & Human Services Levy Community Conversation held earlier today. She said there was a lot of discussion from people who have accessed the system that the system is seriously flawed, and gave examples of the difficulties they encountered. She said people also complained that when they have received drug rehabilitation, the services end, with little follow through. She said there were a lot of suggestions on how to fix the system, including not having arbitrary cut-off lines that prevent people from being considered for receiving help. A good mix of people attended, she continued, and the theme was that better coordination to make the system work is needed. She added

some programs were called out as doing well, including dental programs at senior centers, and more attention being paid to veterans' needs than 10 or 15 years ago.

PUBLIC COMMENT
David Kappler, 255 SE Andrews, Issaquah, gave his perspective on improvements in the way public comment is heard at Park Board meetings. He said in the past, public comment was taken at the beginning of the meeting, before staff gave its presentations, so there was no chance to comment on that information. Now public comment is given after the staff presentation and before the Board's deliberations, he stated.

He continued his comments about the presence of syringes and debris from drug use that can be found near every homeless camp, and said this is a big problem of which the City has to be part of the solution.

He gave his views on the Senior Center, and expressed disapproval of the City's decision to allow continuation of the Issaquah Valley Seniors Board of Directors' "no-trespassing" ban on several citizens. He said the City is paying bonds, maintenance, utilities, taxes, and so on for that building, and thinks the City should not allow it to be run with the limited program it now has. He said even small communities such as Enumclaw and Vashon Island have more dynamic senior programs than Issaquah. He compared the Senior Center's operations to the Food Bank as 501(c)(3) organizations, and said unlike the Senior Center, the Food Bank has a board of professional, savvy business people. The Senior Center Board membership needs to change, he continued, and added that Board members should not be people in a position to sell products and services to seniors. They should be independent board members who don't promote their own business interests.

AGENDA ITEMS
Funding Process Debrief
Sassorossi walked through the Commission's work process to make funding recommendations over the past year or so, including the schedule of meetings held. She said tonight staff would like to get your feedback on the process, including what worked well, what didn't work as well, and any recommendations for changing the process in the future.

Three flipcharts were displayed, representing the three phases of the review process: (1) Training/Orientation and Staff Review; (2) Round 1 Review and Deliberation; and (3) Round 2 Review and Deliberation. She noted Commissioners were sent a survey in advance of tonight's meeting asking for this feedback. The results have been captured and are already listed on each flipchart.

The Commissioners offered additional comments on each phase of the process. Fujimoto captured the comments and added them to the display boards.

Sassorossi also asked Commissioners for their feedback and assessment on the final recommendations the Commission produced as a result of the funding process.

Commissioners were asked to submit all notes and records they used during their deliberations to staff by the November 15 meeting at the latest. Sassorossi said the next step will be to take the content offered by Commissioners tonight, write up the results, share it with Commissioners, and work with the Chair and Vice Chair on next steps.

FRANKLIN thanked the Commissioners and staff for their input and hard work on what was a time-intensive, complicated effort. Commissioners offered their appreciation to staff as well.

OTHER
JIMÉNEZ-INMAN asked about the status of vacancies on the Commission. Sassorossi explained the status of current vacancies and the upcoming process for filling positions.

NEXT MEETING
The next meeting is scheduled for November 15, 2016 in the Eagle Room.

ADJOURNMENT
With no further business to conduct, FRANKLIN adjourned the meeting at 8:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Lowe
Recording Secretary