

Governing Body Minutes – January 17, 2024

SPECIAL MEETING, Topeka, Kansas, Wednesday, January 17, 2023. The Governing Body members of the City of Topeka met in a joint special meeting session with Shawnee County Commissioners at 10:00 A.M. at the Great Overland Station, 200 NW Railroad Street, Topeka, Kansas. Councilmembers Hiller, Valdivia-Alcala, Ortiz, Banks, Miller, Dobler, Duncan and Hoferer; and Shawnee County Commissioners Riphahn, Cook and Mays were present -11. Mayor Padilla presided -1. Absent: Councilmember Kell -1.

Public Comment was not permitted at this joint special meeting session; however, the meeting was open to the public. Written public comment was also considered to the extent it was personally submitted at the meeting or to the City Clerk's Office located at 215 SE 7th Street, Room 166, Topeka, Kansas, 66603 or via email at cclerk@topeka.org on or before the date of the meeting for attachment to the meeting minutes.

Mayor Padilla provided opening statements and thanked Sylver Consulting, Inc., and the Homeless Initiative Core Team for seeking input from the Policy Makers on the next stage of the process, Ideation. He stated in this stage, the reframed problem statements are turned into ideas for solutions.

Brianna Sylver, Sylver Consulting, Inc., stated the purpose of the session was to generate as many ideas as possible and not worry about the logistics but instead, be in the mindset of “yes and.” She explained the ideation process and stated the group would have 40 minutes for the first session to brainstorm ideas.

The ideation Session ensued.

At the conclusion of the ideation session, each group was allotted 10 minutes to

identify their top five ideas, followed by a round robin of sharing, resulting in the following

23 ideas:

1. Landlord Incentives
 - 2nd Chance Program
 - Financial Support & Navigator
 - Co-signer Program
 - Land Bank
2. Centralized Shared Database – starts at first contract; case manager
 - One phone number for the entire community
 - Navigate to connect database
3. City and County Board – all information flows to and from - to reduce resource needs
4. Create and Understand Goals and Vision – align all expectations.
5. Identify Stressors of service providers and how to alleviate
6. Develop a position – landlords, people experiencing homelessness, and service providers for coordination
7. Build houses and give them away to management services – and have wrap around services
8. Create a multi-sector coalition team approach (more than social services) – provide opportunity to have a voice and be part of the solution
9. Centralization of one-stop shop – centralization of services and data tracking (pulse of who is the most vulnerable)
 - Access Services
 - Work on Strong Relationships
 - Involving the Homeless
 - Clear Agreed Upon Vision & Goal of Policymaker – transparent, safe and trusted environment
10. Create an action plan with a taskforce with accountability and transparency (mobile access partnerships)
11. Enhance MAP Resources – more location and frequency
12. Find nonjudgmental navigator group to serve the full community
13. One-Stop Hub for all information to be shared
14. Get away from the “all of none” environment – start small
15. All layers of government need to know what government is – marketability campaign – roles and responsibilities & what needs to be done
16. Better Use of City of Topeka 311 System
17. One-Stop Shop with resources
 - Includes Landlords
 - All Information in one spot
18. Tiny House Villages
19. Incentive Programs & Tax Relief for developers
20. Find landlords that may have employment needs (provides security to support paying for rent)

21. Simplify information for community – keep is simple
22. More time spent on dissemination of information to elected officials – more throughout engagement
23. Education on the resources available – to improve commitment of resources

Brianna Sylver reported a draft portfolio would be created and include 7-10 of the ideas listed, followed by the narrowing down of 1-2 ideas to be used for the test and learn process phase. She asked elected officials to choose four ideas they could support and two ideas they think are wild and list all ideas on the worksheet provided.

Mayor Padilla thanked everyone for attending and providing their input and ideas.

NO FURTHER BUSINESS appearing the meeting adjourned at 12:02 p.m.

(SEAL)

Brenda Younger City Clerk