

## PINE CREEK COMMUNITY LONG TERM RECOVERY GROUP | BOARD MEETING

Wednesday, December 16, 2020 at 7pm PST via Zoom

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### Meeting recording available here:

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/18bsyOhLeiSOGM\\_PZHDz0MEP7I6iWqtEX/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/18bsyOhLeiSOGM_PZHDz0MEP7I6iWqtEX/view?usp=sharing)

**Board Attendance:** Rachel Blakely, Misty Herrimin, Vanessa Place, Colleen Cross, Tonya Nelson, Dan Harwood; Chance Backest; Heather Smith (*quorum established*)

**Attending Executive Director:** Scott Hokonson

#### ***I. Call to Order***

- a. Scott Hokonson called meeting to order.

#### ***II. Visitor Greeting***

- a. Molly Sanchez, Innovia Foundation
- b. Ari Denson, American Red Cross
- c. Kathy Bryson, United Methodist Committee on Relief

#### ***III. Minutes – Regular Meeting, December 9, 2020***

- a. Request for clarification: are minutes meant to be an amalgam of December 2<sup>nd</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>, particularly regarding discussion of consent agenda? No. Consent agenda was discussed at both December 2<sup>nd</sup> and December 9<sup>th</sup> meetings.
- b. Rachel motioned to accept minutes as written. Vanessa seconded.
- c. Discussion: Question of why meeting minutes don't reflect perceived disorderly conduct and penalty that was exacted.
  - i. 1) Minutes are not meant to be punitive/have emotion in them.
  - ii. 2) The incident that occurred took place before the official start of the meeting, which is also why it wasn't recorded.
- d. Question about Robert's Rules of Order and whether person chairing meeting can exact a penalty.
- e. Vote for motion to accept minutes as read: 6 ayes and 1 nay. Motion carries.

#### ***IV. Executive Director's Report***

- a. Case Mangers: 6 people taking the training including Hank. Hank: went through process of training, which finished today. Now have four new case managers trained. Hank passed training and Carlos was recertified (6 total case managers). On Monday Hank will hold operations update with case managers via a face-to-face meeting in Malden.
- b. Scott Update (high overview update/overlap with 'resource update'):
  - i. \$10k was given to him by DRC a check to the LTRG for operations since they are happy with what the group is doing. (also a resource update)
  - ii. Will have a need at some point for 2 positions to help LTRG: 1) someone informationally to help us staff the office and town hall staff answer questions about rebuilding/testing/building permits, etc. 2) a construction manager given

the amount of building projects going on. There are some locals working for the town of Malden with great skillsets who may be appropriate for this.

- iii. Request that board members send their full name and full address for official organizational paperwork to Rachel.
- iv. No Lie has gathered about \$87k. Owner has brought to our attention again and again, asking what will happen with that money. With a lack of getting FEMA response, we entered into a “middle phase” between short and long-term recovery. No idea how long it’s going to last. New territory. Normally it’s short term and long term. Might be a good idea to distribute individual checks.
  - 1. Since we are moving into uncharted territory, we could be flexible with our approach and how we distribute financial resources. No Lie is open to us in terms of how to disperse money – that this could be somewhat of a stimulus.
  - 2. Along with Yoke’s funds, there are checks from the Spokane Tribe and No Lie that were deposited around the same time (totaling around \$51k) but we still have to figure out how to disperse it. Could include Yoke’s money along with No Lie money. Take a look at all of the money that hasn’t been earmarked. This could be discussed in the work groups.
  - 3. Will continue to discuss this option and others for disbursement moving forward. Scott will gather up some more funds like that and see if we can package those together. He Scott will send out suggestions on how to disperse it, and the board will have the final decision on what to do.
- c. Metal Building Update (Paul): We have a couple contractors they are having discussions with as well as design. Once they land on a ball park cost and design concept, he will bring it to the board. There has been discussion of possibly providing space for a prep kitchen, food bank, library, or maybe even post office boxes (which they would like to reestablish in town). He thinks there is funding to provide at least those minimal uses. There are 6 contractors right now who have signaled interest in providing skills and services.
  - i. Question: When town council was deciding whether to vote to approve leasing on town property for placement of the pole building, one of the council members wanted to visit the St. John facility that was recommended for us to potentially emulate. Wondering where that stands on where the building will be placed. There was also discussion during council meeting on some kind of pole Building that already received a building permit from the county.
    - 1. They are in discovery phase for metal building as town hall/meeting area/community building.
    - 2. During town council, it was a private party’s pole building/barndominium.
  - ii. Regarding the donation of \$400k toward the building our town is going to build – this is still in discussion.
  - iii. Question: is there any way once we start designing the foodbank, there will be some insight on how that works for us the best?
    - 1. If this is successful, town hall would have a small office. The Food bank would be designed to facilitate the best and safest way for food and

personnel. The library would be the same. They are in early stages - "drawing on a napkin."

2. If I could ask folks if they would like to visit the St. John facility, there are multiple people like Chantel who could open the building so folks could look and maybe visualize some of the things we are talking about. It's easier to design something if you've seen a concept. It's just a concept at this point.
- iv. Paul: You all are the community builders/rebuilders. You have a vision for what this might look like. Early discussions around what are of most importance to the community? (e.g., library, food bank, government spaces). What we've seen in St. John and their community center could be pulled off in Malden very easily. It will be an iterative conversation. You all will be engaged throughout for how this might work.
1. Question: In St. John, governance is separate from the community building. It feels like we are saying the town will have an office in there when we haven't, as a board, had a good discussion about that. Wouldn't mind the town renting space from the community building, but then what happens insurance wise?
  2. Response 1: we have had discussions with our insurance company regarding the cash value and replacement value. For example, if we were to decide to utilize all of the cash value of the library, the food bank, and the city office to be able to be included in that community building instead of 400k, it could be up to \$450k, \$490k, etc. But we are in the beginning stages at this point.
  3. Response 2: the history on this is initially we knew the town did not want to work with us. We had no idea that the town had plans to build something. Then there were the resignations. Now we are in a different spot where the mayor is willing to work with us about what is possible. We are all doing it together. Nothing has been decided.
  4. Response 3: a good way to look at it, is instead of having to lease.. they only need a small office. Instead of us leasing land to build this building, if we are building the library and the foodbank and the little office would it cancel out each other? Because we wouldn't have to worry about leasing? It may work out well.
  5. Note: When we have the discussion about comingling buildings, we need to look at community-owned and government-owned building dynamics and take that into consideration. We may have restrictions put on the building. Or it can become complicated and logistics need to be well thought out.
- v. Question regarding recent discussion around unincorporation from town of Malden? Concerns from fire victims who were worried that the governor has authority to disincorporate us.
1. This is in no way true. The only way the town of Malden would ever become unincorporated would be at the vote of its residents initiated by town council.

2. Others on the board had not heard of this rumor surrounding unincorporation.
- vi. Question regarding contact with USPS. The USPS has not held a meeting, but they will let the LTRG know when this will be held. They are keeping the zip code and would like for us to have a post office again.

**V. Treasurer's Report - Tonya**

- a. Received report today. No disbursements so far. We were asked for clarification on the restaurant and gift cards that were provided on the December 5<sup>th</sup> Christmas tree lighting event. Rachel and Tonya were distributing these next to the microphone where all the chairs were; and they flagged people down to distribute gift cards. Those cards were not made available or aware to the board until the 4<sup>th</sup>, which was the Friday before. Figured up about \$50 per household/family who lost a house. She started a spreadsheet at December 5<sup>th</sup> event. Not all residents were available, so they will have gift cards available on Friday. There's a spreadsheet to make sure every family gets a card. It needs to be signed, and we are hoping to avoid duplication. If no one is able to come in and receive those cards, we could encourage them to contact the community building or a trusted board member, and we will do everything in our power to get those cards to our families.
- b. Need to seek clarification on where it showed 10k raised and address gift cards. Tonya unaware of donation until late Friday afternoon. A last minute donation as far as she was informed. If there was an additional donation made, it would have probably gone into their spreadsheet. They had a couple of deposits on the 4<sup>th</sup>. She could certainly get more detailed line items.
  - i. Trying our very best to be fair and equitable in our distribution of gift cards. If anyone is unable to make it to Malden, have them contact someone, and we can make arrangements confidentially to make sure families are getting these gift cards. However, they may not work for people currently outside of the area since they are for local businesses.
- c. There is a Holiday event this Friday. The community has been super responsive to the holiday drive - 44 families who lost homes have been sponsored. Gifts are being collected and wrapped at our office, including gifts for additional families who were impacted, but maybe didn't lose their home. They also have a sponsor who called to make sure pets were being supported. That person will be delivering bags of dog and cat food. They will be coming on Friday afternoon to make sure it's distributed then.
  - i. Santa and the Grinch will be there at the event this Friday. We will be holding anything not picked up at the library. Vanessa will be there until 6pm on Friday and also next week at the library from 2-6pm. There will be multiple ways they can get their packages. She will be making a statement that there are other options.
  - ii. Some people out of state will be receiving packages as well (through help of Innovia). This will be added to the foodbank. We try our hardest to make sure we are flexible, but we do have deadlines. There will also be the Christmas dinner box they will be handing out Friday. We also had a large donation of shoes that will be set out. They will be out on tables by size and made available this Friday.

**VI. Resource Committee Report**

- a. Chance: Tools update: regarding tools from Lowes corporation. He still has not heard back from this group and has still not gotten a report/spreadsheet from them. He will give them another visit again sometime this week (or call/text). As of right now, nothing else to report.
- b. People reach out to us, and we are starting to get an influx of people back in town now that short-term housing is starting to end. Making sure people have hookups they need. Things they want/need (e.g., microwave, quilts); Trying to make immediate connections to resource committee. Met with builder today about her house, and he told her he is making a deal with a concrete company to get a discount on cost/yard for the town of Malden. Something like 90 dollars a yard that's normally 130. This is for anyone in the town of Malden.
  - i. We need temporary rentals in Spokane County (Tibra); We need someone to reach out to landlords and find houses for tenants to rent. Some people didn't want to take advantage of the 12 month lease because they couldn't afford it. And some people kept getting "no's" because of their particular situation (e.g., dog breed issues).
- c. On the power issue. That fund is out of money right now for people asking for money to be hooked up. Indicated that LTRG will fund things, but they can't fund everything. Slowing it down total crawl to make the best decisions on what to fund. He has tried to go to outside sources for funding.
  - i. Town will provide for that person or persons a space for them. We will figure out how to make a phone work and facilitate that for everybody if that works for the group.
- d. Reminder that we are not meeting next week (December 23<sup>rd</sup>) and will resume on Wednesday, December 30<sup>th</sup>.

**VII. Grievance Committee Report**

- a. Haven't had a grievance committee since Roxanne resigned. Colleen has been waiting for an opportunity to put forth Jessica Graham as a nominee in the office of vice chair – since Misty has moved into chair position.
  - i. Vanessa: Jessica Graham no longer lives in town. Janell Turner has been involved and she is willing to jump on board and be on our board. And we also have Heather VanDyke.
  - ii. Rachel also talked to someone from Pine City who would be interested in being on the board since we don't have representation from Pine City. We can table this for a more in-depth discussion later on.
- b. Since there is currently not a grievance committee, Rachel asked Colleen to provide updates:
  - i. Issue 1: Access to debris removal has been routed through our organization. Last night in town council, one of our council members characterized that if anyone has debris on their land, it means they refused assistance. What is going to happen if DRC leaves and people who filled out a questionnaire who attempted to access debris removal but couldn't? Are they at risk of losing their land/having been labeled as refusing?
  - ii. Response 1: we have been helping, not routing DRC. We are hoping FEMA will come in with PA at some point that will go toward clean up efforts for under

and uninsured properties. Has heard zero complaints about people getting their properties cleaned up for free. This may be something more appropriate to discuss with town council.

- iii. Response 2: There are people that we've reached out to, not just about clean up, who said they do not want any help from the town. For example, there are certain people who do not want to sign the right of entry form. So for these people who are refusing any help at all, how long are we going to let those lots sit with debris on them? It's not people struggling to get their ducks in a row, but people who deny help from everything. If people prove they have sent in a questionnaire, they won't be lumped in with people who refuse the help. No decisions have been made. There is currently no timeline. A council person made a misstatement. It was a discussion.
- c. There are grievances and we are working behind the scenes. We might not be using United Way money, but any grievances are being handled with 100% devotion and respect. We really truly are trying our best.
- d. Issue 2: Saw Facebook post about Holiday Tree Lighting on Dec. 5 regarding people who can't access resources during a particular timeframe/making alternate arrangements.
  - i. Response : If you couldn't make it to the event, the gift cards will be made on Wednesdays from 11am-2pm. The gift cards were unintentionally stored away instead of being left for another board member to distribute at the event. It was not intentional.

#### **VIII. Discussion Items**

- a. In all of this, we are all tasked with duties and responsibilities above and beyond. We are volunteering our time, efforts, and resources. These are resources available. This isn't a life and death situation. We have to keep in mind that everyone is volunteering.
- b. Update on LTRG logo?
  - i. We have conflicts within the board regarding whether to include the extra words. Holding off on moving forward with the logo until after the holidays.
- c. No meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>:

#### **IX. Work Group**

- i. Motion to move into work group. No dissents. This is not an executive session.
- ii. Hank's disbursement idea re: middle phase: Here's what's unique. You have the short-term funders like the American Red Cross who show up shortly after a disaster. FEMA has decided one way or another for SBA, for instance, where long term [funding] kicks in. What's different with Malden and Pine City, is that SBA is prevented from intervening since FEMA has taken so long. What he is seeing is a gap in terms of funding for short-term and not being prepared for long-term funding. What they do affects what the charities do. So we can't fully engage the long-term process. Now there is a mid-term need. United way is also interested in making that disbursement. The Yoke's money is also good for moving ahead.
  - 1. Question of how to disperse funds:
    - a. Anything we can do.. whether it's \$400, \$800 or \$100.. part of our job is psychological. The psychological part really needs to be taken care of.

- b. Raise up funds from Yoke's and United Way? Is this for household, family size? Someone who owned a home here and had a tenant? Are we sending it the homeowner or both?
  - c. The best practice Hank has seen is one disbursement for household (whether it is one person living there or 7).. not an absentee landlord. Anyone affected by the household. It would be per household for people residing here in the community on September 7<sup>th</sup>.
  - d. How to be as fair and equitable as we can. We are establishing what is an MOU with United Way. We make a proposal. We set forth some of the rules/conditions for that request. This makes a consistent, fair and transparent process.
  - e. Disbursement based on number of family members? (Lions Club example). Opinion is that the Lions club has the most complete list and they are now willing to compare lists after the first of the year. If they have a formula, we can go off of that.
  - f. Perhaps having 2 lists (e.g., complete loss v. damage)
2. Request for Tonya and Eric to work on seeing the total we would have if we had the No Lie, Spokane tribe, and Spokane hospitality money into one pot.
  3. Paul: We could present to the board on our December 30<sup>th</sup> meeting a couple of options for how we disperse the money. Options for different avenues. Not sure about picking a number until we get a total from the campaigns.
    - a. It's more about the number of people. \$150 for sure, maybe closer to \$200. Get a decent amount into everyone's hands. The hard part that people aren't grasping is that our name is "long-term recovery"; It's long-term building.
    - b. Could create good publicity as well.
    - c. Eventually notifying people that they need to apply and thinking of how people could apply.
  4. Suppose we don't go by campaign, and instead say to Whitman county, could you please disperse \$300k of that that people can apply for in 2 categories? We could step up our fundraising.
    - a. Dissent: Should not do that, because this is for long term recovery. We could start whole new campaign. We cannot take away from long-term recovery.
    - b. Tonya has not heard anything about Lumberjack Brewery donation. It may have been sent to the United way. We can ask them.

**X. Adjournment**

- a. Rachel motioned to adjourn at 8:58pm PST. Vanessa and Chance seconded. No discussion. All favored to adjourn meeting.