

Covid Response Task Force Blue Ribbon Committee meeting minutes 8.23.2022

Attendees: Laurie McIntosh, Lori Waltz, Karen Conrad, Molly Wilson, Kathy Beebe, Abbie Frank, Whitney Brown, Janet Laatsch, Abbie Frank, Nancy Brown, Meme Wheeler

Guests: Robert Sullivan, City Attorney and Sean Clancy, Assistant City Manager

1. Called to order 12:07pm
2. Introductions
3. Approve minutes made by Whitney Brown, seconded by Lori Waltz. All in favor
4. Attorney Sullivan spoke to the group about complying with the statutes in the 'Right to Know' law. Information discussed in the meetings needs to be made public. This pertains to city council meetings and committee meetings. There has to be a physical quorum and have to inform people when the meeting is in two public places. Minutes have to identify who attended, what was discussed, any motions (including who made them, who seconded, etc.). Minutes need to be made available within 72 hours after the meeting. For subcommittees (under the law called an advisory council) and they become their own public body and must follow the same 'Right to know' law. The statute must be followed even if communication is electronic. The communication must go one way then are not functional meeting and it isn't necessary to follow the statute.
5. Sean Clancy spoke about the economic development in the City. Soon he will be launching a business retention survey. Sean will check and make sure the list he gets from the Secretary of State includes non-profits. Kathy asked what the charter of the nonprofit Arts and culture committee. Karen said it was started during the pandemic so that they would share the resources, not compete. They were tasked to develop a cultural plan.
6. Charter was reviewed. Karen informed us that the council meeting is September 12 at 6pm where there is a discussion of the potential ARPA asks. We can attend in person or via zoom. Laurie requested how the \$12.88M was spent. Sharon will make sure this information goes out with the next meeting packet. Lori asked if we could see who has submitted requests so we can work with them and/or identify the needs that wouldn't be supported by the existing requests.
7. Needs of the Community-Nancy mentioned that the schools received about \$3.9M ARPA funding.
 - a. Meme- Public transportation and workforce shortage-one way is to increase wages training;
 - b. Kathy-Public transportation, workforce and mental health challenges;
 - c. Abbie-Child care, the impact of covid on students (tutoring), food insecurity, mental health for children and adults, transportation;
 - d. Whitney-Transportation- branching out to Greenland and do earlier stops in Dover then 8am, the unhoused (no data on this and not enough accessible housing), warming shelters along with a staffing solution, workforce shortage. Can owners use vouchers? Mental health gap for the 2-3 month wait to get in. Transportation from all Portsmouth schools to get to Greenland after school active program;
 - e. Nancy-Mental health a priority, racial issues need to be addressed, public education concerns from police officers that work at the schools the support that parents need and the needs of the children, gun violence issues;
 - f. Janet- Will send out GSCH needs assessment;

- g. Laurie- Mentioned support for disabled children that didn't have supports and housing for adults with disability;
 - h. Lori- substance misuse and it is often associated with mental health.
8. No public comment
 9. Karen will ask her assistant to send an email with upcoming meeting dates to confirm we will have a quorum.
 10. 1:05pm Lori Waltz motioned to adjourn; seconded by Molly Wilson.

DRAFT