

MEMORANDUM
Bloomington Common Council-Regular Session
Bloomington City Hall, Council Chambers, 401 N. Morton Street, Bloomington, Indiana
Wednesday, August 14, 2024

Meeting called to order: 6:30pm
Council President Isabel Piedmont-Smith presided.

ROLL CALL

Councilmembers present: Isak Nti Asare, Courtney Daily, Matt Flaherty, Isabel Piedmont-Smith, Dave Rollo, Kate Rosenbarger, Andy Ruff, Hopi Stosberg, Sydney Zulich

Councilmembers present via Zoom: none

Councilmembers absent: none

City staff, officials, and guests present: Joelene Bergonzi, Colleen Williamson, Ash Kulak, Chief Deputy Clerk Sofia McDowell, Clerk Nicole Bolden

AGENDA SUMMATION

APPOINTMENT TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

ACTION: Piedmont-Smith appointed Rosenbarger to the Hiring Committee without objection.

TOPICS

- Issue Overview
- Breakout Groups: Part 1
- Group Reporting
- Breakout Groups: Part 2
- Large Group Debriefing (*Clerk's Note: The notes from this portion are attached below.*)
- Closing of the Session

ADJOURNMENT [8:32pm]

ACTION: Piedmont-Smith adjourned the meeting.

Memorandum prepared by:
Sofia McDowell, CHIEF DEPUTY CLERK
City of Bloomington

Reports from small groups

Group 1: Resources stretched from use by people outside the county

Concerns of individual safety and security

Lack of basic services, like bathrooms

What does it mean to be “from here?”

Misalignment between available services and needs

No alternatives when people are displaced from “clearing camps”

Need to work together, coordinate at levels of government, businesses, and organizations

Need more resources – reallocate or make better use

Storage for belongings, safe sleeping needs, provision of supplies

Group 2: Significant pressures on community resources

Humanity of those experiencing homelessness

We should not accept the current situation

Focus on work force and skill development

Organize govt to deal with issue, centralize staffing and budget allocations

Funding, capacity for sharing data

Need for public bathrooms, showers, storage

City as convener to help parts work together

Important of rapid rehousing and temporary housing

Need to use groups to take on certain tasks

Access to grants for organizations

Responsiveness to needs from City

Funding for eco-housing, transitional housing, etc.

Group 3: Urgency of this issue for health and safety of population

Desire to learn more about the situation

Mental health needs not being addressed

More trash pick-up, need for bathrooms

Increase lighting, security, might move people to other areas

Increase street outreach teams

Add to different housing types/models

Restrict sleeping in public areas

Incentivize landlord for applications, avoid eviction

Group 4: To address issue, start from sense of respect and dignity for those experiencing homelessness

Prioritize policies in any way to encourage affordable housing

Need better mental health care and addiction services

Learning from methods of other communities

IU as source of contributions of human resources and funding, collaboration

Council's power to convene used to bring together different parts of government and organizations to collaborate and centralize

Group 5: Support for people in transitions of housing

Discrimination for qualifying for housing and health care

How to make housing available for unrelated individuals

Increasing funding and staffing for current programs, like through Jack Hopkins grants

Group 6: Not enough low-income housing or shelters, especially for women

Where do the individuals in need WANT to go, what do they care about

Honor people's choices in what they are looking for

People who have been in encampments for a long time may need different priorities

Moving them can re-traumatize them

Barriers to shelter may be animal ownership, people staying together

Difficult to take steps toward long-term housing