

Governing Committee

King County Regional Homelessness Authority

KCRHA Governing Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday,
April 15, 2021

10:00am to 12:00pm

Virtual Meeting Link Available at
<https://regionalhomelesssystem.org/>

Governing Committee Position	Governing Committee Members	Attendance
King County Council	Claudia Balducci	X
	Joe McDermott	X
King County Executive	Dow Constantine	X
Lived Experience Leaders	Johnathan Hemphill	X
	Kirk McClain	
	Zaneta Reid	X
Seattle City Council	Lorena Gonzalez	X
	Andrew Lewis	X
Seattle Mayor	Jenny Durkan, Chair	X
Sound Cities Association	Nancy Backus	X
	Angela Birney	X
	Ed Prince	X

Attendees:

11 present and 1 absent.

1. Welcome and Agenda Overview

2. Approval of Minutes from January 21, February 4, and March 18 Meetings

Ed Prince asks for a motion to approve the minutes in the meeting packet. **Angela Birney** makes the motion; motion is seconded by **Claudia Balducci**.

All in favor, none opposed.

3. Public Comment

Ed Prince asks for public comment. There are two individuals signed up to address the Governing Committee.

- **Cindy:** I have met *some* King County employees that care and *some* service providers in King County who are compassionate, but it is not the norm. The Tax Credit affordable housing is not working for us. People are severely rent burdened in those properties. There is so much violence and drug use in these properties. People cannot be allowed to be over 40% rent burdened. (The individual goes on to describe a violent episode that occurred in a tax credit property in King County)
- **Bill Kirlin Hackett:** The rule suspending the forced movement of individuals living in vehicles has been protecting people, furthermore, it is consistent with the KCRHA Theory of Change. We need to keep these protections in place after the pandemic subsides. We also need to fund the LEC with offices and staff that recognizes them as the resource that they are to the KCRHA and the region.

4. Ratification of Committee Bylaws

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Ed Prince asks for a motion to pass the resolution ratifying the Governing Committee’s previously approved bylaws.

Angela Birney makes the motion; **Nancy Backus** seconds. No discussion.

Roll Call vote

Governing Committee Members	Aye	Nay	Absent	Abstain
Claudia Balducci	X			
Joe McDermott	X			
Dow Constantine	X			
Johnathan Hemphill	X			
Kirk McClain			X	
Zaneta Reid	X			
Lorena Gonzalez	X			
Andrew Lewis	X			
Jenny Durkan	X			
Nancy Backus	X			
Angela Birney	X			
Ed Prince	X			

Committee Vote – 11 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Abstain, 1 Absent; Motion is adopted.

5. Introductory Comments from Incoming CEO

Marc Dones makes some initial comments:

Want to be brief. I want to acknowledge that there is a lot to do. We are already seven months behind schedule. This is on top of a global pandemic that we know has already exacerbated housing insecurity, and it will continue to get worse. We need to move expeditiously but also with intention. No design is going to perfect. It is acceptable to try new things that fail. At the end of the day, my job is to house people. As we begin to get our hands around the accurate data from a regional perspective, you can expect that we will be a data-driven agency that makes the most out of every public dollar. At some point I am going to ask you for more money. I am asking for patience from the public while we “turn the lights on” at the KCRHA.

- **Nancy Backus:** Welcome! We are excited to have you here. We are here to support you. You have my full support.
- **Angela Birney:** Welcome you with open arms. You will have my full support to get the work done. I sympathize with the pressure of being “behind schedule” before you have truly begun.
- **Claudia Balducci:** Want to add my welcome as well. I will support you in your desire to balance the need for urgency of moving forward with the intentionality of moving deliberately.
- **Andrew Lewis:** Do you have any preliminary guidance for the Governing Committee about the situation presenting itself on Seattle streets? There is pressure and need to increase shelter capacity within Seattle before the end of 2022. My inclination is we need to move fast. What is your vision for how to reconcile that urgency with your timeline for getting the organization stood up?

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- **Marc Dones:** I am working already with the City and County on planning for the federal recovery dollars. What the authority will have a position on in the next ten months will be around planning and “laying track” for federal dollars. Want to ensure that we are gathering the necessary and consistent data from across the region in order to establish appropriate policy directions. The City and County teams are doing a good job of including me in all of the conversations about planning for federal dollars. I am also working directly with LEC and those conversations are actively informing my conversations with the City and County.
- **Johnathan Hemphill:** I am glad that the Theory of Change is at the forefront of your mind.
- **Zaneta Reid:** We are seeing local ordinances that are criminalizing homelessness. Moving people around is traumatizing people. People need real help. If we criminalize homelessness these people will continue to fall out of the social support system. They won’t have any reason to trust government or service providers who are distributing resources.
 - **Marc Dones:** It is so important to be able to disagree and have conversations about root cause issues. I want to be making the space for those conversations on this board. We need to listen to *understand* before we listen to *persuade*. This is a fundamental tenet of conflict resolution. I believe that everyone on this Board is a public servant. That doesn’t mean I always understand how they came to a particular policy solution. I, and the KCRHA, will not be taking positions on political voter initiatives. We will end homelessness *inside* of the context of whatever the voters decide.

6. Interim Staffing Plan Update

Marc Dones makes some initial comments:

The memo you have today is brief because don’t have a full set of information yet. That said, based on the delay that has already transpired and the urgency to commence the real work on this agency, the initial five positions are simply not enough. The bodies of work that I am most worried about getting started in the right direction as quickly as possible are the sub-regional planning efforts, the HMIS data migration and design. I do not think it will be possible to do a full, comprehensive staffing plan until we have better information about where and how people are accessing services and where providers are operating.

With regard to budget impacts of my request, my understanding is based on the numbers I have seen, we have the funds to hire and support these positions in 2021. My request today is for provisional approval of these positions to post them. Final authorization and approval to hire an individuals would come later with budget authorization.

- **Nancy Backus:** are you looking for local or outside people on your team?
 - **Marc Dones:** I want it to be a mix. We need to continually balance the disruption with the continuity of local experience.
- **Angela Birney:** I am grateful to see you asking for more people out of the gate. I hope that you have asked for enough people for now. Do not discount the need for good admin people around

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you. I would love to see in the future how you are integrating all the functions of the two big agencies and creating efficiencies.

- **Johnathan Hemphill:** With regards to sub-regional planning, are you already considering youth and family homelessness and how you will engage with those populations?
 - **Marc Dones:** Yes, we need to build on and expand the previous engagement work. It will be so critical to do this robustly in order to build the full staffing plan.
- **Lorena Gonzalez:** I feel like we are getting a little a head of ourselves in terms of asking for these additional positions, particularly in absence of more detailed information about what these positions will be responsible for and the full budget implications. What do you think the financial impacts are for these additional five? I am also interested in hearing more from you about your expected timeline for bringing them on.
 - **Marc Dones:** On budget impacts, these positions are covered by fungible dollars within the startup costs that are already currently allocated. So they are covered for 2021. The piece that I don't have a clear picture on is the projections of the budget into 2022. In terms of timeline, all positions will be posted until filled. We will have initial interviews with representation from LEC and other key stakeholders. The final step will need to be a budget justification against an administrative budget.
 - **Lorena Gonzalez:** My concern is that we will need additional resources now and also in the ongoing term for these additional five.
 - **Marc Dones:** I have the budget to cover these additional positions in 2021. What I need to gather is information about the long term sustainability of these positions in the context of the rest of the admin budget.
 - **Lorena Gonzalez:** I just feel like I need to understand what the full financial implications are in the context of a full staffing plan before I am comfortable approving this request.
 - **Marc Dones:** Based on the information I have, I do not believe I am asking for more resources at this time. My concern is that without these ten positions it will be very hard to create a full and complete staffing plan as required by the ILA.
- **Dow Constantine:** In our staff's estimation, there is not enough budget to cover all of these positions. I would welcome other jurisdictions contribution to this critical work. I agree with Lorena and Marc that it is important to understand how we will be paying for these employees ongoing. I am fine with you posting the positions, we just need to have this additional information before we extend hiring offers for the additional people.
- **Jenny Durkan:** I would echo what Gonzalez and Constantine said. Would like you to go ahead and post the positions you think you need, but then show us the more detailed staffing plan before we give approval to go ahead and hire.
 - **Marc Dones:** I am comfortable with running parallel tracks for hiring, but I do want to flag my concern that I will not be able to do a comprehensive staffing plan without these additional staff resources.
- **Joe McDermott:** The positions you have articulated are critical. I don't think it is a question of IF we are going to hire these positions, but rather WHEN.

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- **Angela Birney:** I agree with Joe, I think we can break it into two parts: 1) authorizing the positions and job titles for recruitment and 2) hiring based on more detailed budget information
- **Johnathan Hemphill:** It feels very logical that Marc would need these positions in order to hit the ground running and actually complete the landscape analysis and staffing plan.
- **Marc Dones:** I am comfortable separating the hiring process from authorization to hire contingent of a fuller picture of budget implications.

Angela Birney Makes a motion to approve title and scope of additional jobs and to post them for recruitment; seconded by **Zaneta Reid**.

Roll Call vote

Governing Committee Members	Aye	Nay	Absent	Abstain
Claudia Balducci	X			
Joe McDermott	X			
Dow Constantine	X			
Johnathan Hemphill	X			
Kirk McClain			X	
Zaneta Reid	X			
Lorena Gonzalez	X			
Andrew Lewis	X			
Jenny Durkan	X			
Nancy Backus	X			
Angela Birney	X			
Ed Prince	X			

Committee Vote – 1 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Abstain, 1 Absent; Motion is adopted.

Andrew Lewis: I think we just need to call a special meeting of the full Governing Committee to approve the additional hires; I don't think we can delegate this to a sub-committee.

Nancy Backus makes a motion to schedule a special meeting on May 20 at 10am to review the financial implications prepared by Marc and approve the additional positions; Seconded by **Zaneta Reid**.

Roll Call vote

Governing Committee Members	Aye	Nay	Absent	Abstain
Claudia Balducci	X			
Joe McDermott	X			
Dow Constantine	X			
Johnathan Hemphill	X			
Kirk McClain			X	
Zaneta Reid	X			
Lorena Gonzalez	X			
Andrew Lewis	X			
Jenny Durkan			X	
Nancy Backus	X			
Angela Birney	X			
Ed Prince	X			

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Committee Vote – 10 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Abstain, 2 Absent; Motion is adopted.

Next meeting May 20, 2021.

Adjourned at 11:45am

DRAFT