

YVCOG General Membership Video Conference

Meeting Minutes

October 21, 2020

JURISDICTION	PRESENT	ABSENT
GRANDVIEW	Bill Moore-M;	Cus Arteaga-A
GRANGER	Lilia Villarreal-M; Julie Sharp-A	Veronica Bermudez-PC
HARRAH		Pat Krueger – M
MABTON		Sophie Sotelo – M; Arturo Dela Fuente - A
MOXEE		David Mullen-M; Greg LaBree-A
NACHES		Kit Hawver – M; Wayne Hawver - A
SELAH	Jacquie Matson-M; Sherry Raymond-A	Lisa Smith-PC
SUNNYSIDE	Francisco Guerrero-A	Dean Broersma-M;
TIETON	Ed Marquand-M	Amy Oberrender-A
TOPPENISH	Clara Jimenez-A	Mark Oaks-M; Al Hubert-PC
UNION GAP	Jack Galloway-M; Sandy Dailey-A	Mike Moore-PC
WAPATO		
YAKIMA CITY		Brad Hill-M; Holly Cousens-A
YAKIMA CO.	Ron Anderson – M; Vicki Baker-M	
ZILLAH	Doug Stewart-A	Janice Gonzales-M; Ardele Steele-PC/A/A

Note: M=Member; A=Alternate; PC=Planning Commission

Additional Attendees:	Speakers: Esther Magasis (Yakima County Human Resources), Mike Johnson (Yakima Union Gospel Mission), Mike Kay (Camp Hope,) Dani Aguilar (Young Women’s Christian Association), and Brian Ahern (Rod’s House)
	Others: Diana Jennings (Grandview); Martin Casey, James Restucci (Sunnyside); Lance Hoyt, Heidi Riojas (Toppenish); John Hodkinson, Jeff Shoemaker (Union Gap); Troy Suing (WSDOT); Patricia Byers, Bob Harrison (Yakima)
YVCOG Staff	Chris Wickenhagen, Alan Adolf, Tami Hayward, Jodi Smith, Shane Andreas, Lynn Deitrick, Jeff Watson.

CALL TO ORDER: John Hodkinson, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at approximately 6:00 p.m. The meeting was hosted via ZOOM. A quorum was present.

INTRODUCTIONS AND ROLL CALL

PUBLIC COMMENT POLICY It is the policy of the YVCOG General Membership to accept public comment on agenda items at the time the item is being discussed. Public comments regarding items not on the agenda will be heard at the end of the meeting.

WELCOMING REMARKS Martin Casey, Sunnyside City Manager, welcomed everyone to the virtual meeting and provided an update on recent happenings and accomplishments happening in Sunnyside. His focus was on transportation funding successes, the effects of COVID 19, and homeless issues.

Chairman Restucci joined the meeting at 6:13 p.m., and thanked Vice Chairman Hodkinson for opening the meeting.

BUSINESS

Approval of Minutes – September 16, 2020 General Membership Meeting The City of Union Gap moved to approve the [Minutes from September 16, 2020](#). The City of Yakima. *The motion carried.*

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A recording of this meeting is available

*Proposed Amendment to the
YVCOG 2020 Balanced Budget*

Christina Wickenhagen, YVCOG Executive Director, presented the [Proposed Amendment to the YVCOG 2020 Balanced Budget](#).

This amendment is necessary because YVCOG received an increase of \$233,000 in our budget. This money is mainly being used to do traffic counts and expand modeling services for our cities.

- [Resolution 2020-2](#)

Motion: The City of Sunnyside moved to approve Resolution 2020-2. The City of Toppenish seconded the motion. The motion carried.

2021 Proposed Budget

Ms. Wickenhagen presented the [2021 Proposed Budget](#) to the General Membership. All of our city assessments are staying the same, the only change in the budget would be due to a change in the city's population. There would have been a decrease in the 2021 budget if it were not for the additional state and federal transportation funds YVCOG is anticipating in 2021.

The Budget Subcommittee, and YVCOG Executive Committee, have reviewed the proposed budget and recommended that it be passed on to our members for approval.

- [Resolution 2020-3](#)

Motion: The City of Grandview moved to approve Resolution 2020-3. The City of Zillah seconded the motion. The motion carried.

PROGRAM

Various homeless service providers shared the most recent happenings within their organizations:

[Yakima County Human Services](#) Director, Esther Magasis, walked our members through the various updates and additions to Yakima County's new Human Services website. Resources include: Homeless Housing Assistance Program, Veteran's Program, Yakima Valley Broadband Action Team, COVID-19 Response Work, and a quarterly newsletter.

She provided information on how the Homeless Housing Assistance Program section of the website (under 'Programs We Fund') is broken out by program types (outreach, coordinated entry, shelters and sanctioned encampment, capital improvement, rental assistance, and permanent supportive housing).

Five Year Plan – developed by the Yakima County Homeless Coalition. Lists the 5 goals they are working towards. Developed by the community group and in alignment with the state's requirements. The last RFP process lists how the funds were allocated towards each of the 5 goals.

[Yakima Union Gospel Mission](#) Director, Mike Johnson, provided information on the Mission being a low-barrier shelter for single men and women. Also shelter for up to 10 families, which is segregated from the rest of the campus, and entry is key-carded.

The Mission offers a one-year faith-based recovery program. They also operate the largest free medical clinic in the state of Washington, for people staying at the Mission and also provides services to farm workers and the working poor.

YUGM offers transitional housing with case management. They also accept Level 1 sex offenders by specific individual review.

YUGM currently operates only in the City of Yakima, but has an outstanding partnership with Camp Hope who does a lot of transportation and will bring people from other communities,, within Yakima County, to YUGM if that is where they would like to go.

A lot of people who come to the Mission are capable of thriving when given the opportunity. Currently have 7 residents enrolled at YVCC – 2 of them are enrolled in the Chemical Dependency program.

Camp Hope Director, Mike Kay – Most of Camp Hope's shelter services are located in Yakima, but they do provide county-wide transportation services. Camp Hope is made up of large, military-style, heated tents, along with services such as shower and laundry facilities, pet grooming area, education center, etc. They are a low-barrier shelter, meaning people can come there drunk or high, but they are not allowed to use while there.

All First Responders should have the HOT Team number (Homeless Outreach Team) – a 24-hour number they can call any time to have Camp Hope staff come and pick people (and their pets) up and transport them to a facility of their choice.

They try to fill the gap where other programs may be lacking. There are about 100 people at Camp Hope right now ... they are kind of the 'emergency room.'

They have 4 vets on staff to care for pets (grooming, feeding, chipping, pet obedience programs). They also have their own narcotics dog.

Security is taken very seriously – a lot of offenders come from jail to Camp Hope. Slow to kick people out. Camp Hope is kind of the last stop.

They average 87 transports a month from hospital providers. They will transport Covid-19 positive patients home.

There have been no outbreaks of COVID-19 at Camp Hope, thanks to being an outdoor facility.

Camp Hope partnered with YVCOG a few years ago and built two tiny homes, which have been very successful.

Young Women's Christian Association Outreach Coordinator/Prevention Advocate, Daniela Aguilar

YWCA provides a safe location for those affected by domestic violence. – capacity is 44 (including children).

Crisis calls have increased 30% since COVID-19 stay-at-home orders.

Clean and Sober shelter is for women and children. Capacity of the shelter is 44 – including children.
YWCA is hosting virtual education classes.
Transitional housing – 16 units. Studio to 3-bedroom apartments. Residents can stay for 3 months.
Housing program is open to public, but domestic violence victims receive priority.
Rental assistance – helping people be able to keep current housing. Done in-house and case-by-case.

Rod's House Program Director, Brian Ahern

Rod's House has been around for about 11 years, including the resource center. Offers basic necessities to homeless youth: hot meals, shower, laundry, internet usage, clothing, can receive mail at the address, all sorts of case management. Also offer a life-skills program offered in-house, including guest presenters.

Outreach program has 5 staff members. Working on expanding outreach throughout the valley for young people who are in need. Two of the paid staff members are actual alumni of Rod's House services and are now investing in other youth.

Last winter Rod's House partnered with the Homeless Network of Yakima County for extreme winter weather shelter for young adults, sheltering 55 young adults over a 5-month period. Anticipating more this year. First bed night this year is November 1st and will run through March. 16 beds. First-come, first-serve basis. Will be collaborating with YUGM and Camp Hope.

About two years ago they began a "Host Homes" pilot program where they identify and interview homes in the community who are willing to have a young person stay from 6 months to 2 years. A match-based program. While in a host home, the young person is working on a stabilizing goal.

Newest program – Young Adult Emergency Home – located in Sunnyside. Five weeks old. Capacity is 8. Working with ages 18 to 24, in a short-term capacity – goal is to exit within 30 days to safe and stable housing. Possible to extend the stay up to 90 days, but that is the cap. Have already worked with 11 young adults and 2 of them have been housed. A Behavioral Health specialist is on staff.

Contact information:

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Rod's House
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Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA)

Dani Aguilar

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Camp Hope / Grace City Outreach

Mike Kay

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HOT TEAM (24-hour Response Team) (509) 424-1228

Yakima Union Gospel Mission (YUGM)

Mike Johnson

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(509) 317-1717

UPCOMING GENERAL
MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

- December 9, 2020 – YVCOG hosts.

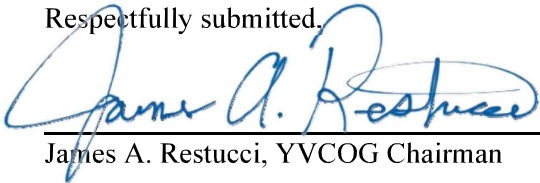
PUBLIC COMMENT

None

ADJOURN

With no further business, Chairman Restucci adjourned the meeting at approximately 7:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Restucci, YVCOG Chairman

Date signed: 9 December 2020

Tamara Hayward, Financial Specialist