

## YVCOG General Membership Video Conference

## Meeting Minutes

December 8, 2021

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		Dean Broersma-M; Francisco Guerrero-A
TIETON	Ed Marquand-M	Amy Oberrender-A
TOPPENISH	Clara Jimenez-M; Naila Duval – A; Al Hubert-PC	
UNION GAP	Jack Galloway-M	Sandy Dailey-A; Mike Moore-PC
WAPATO		Keith Workman – M; Margaret Estrada - A
YAKIMA CITY		Brad Hill-M; Holly Cousens-A
YAKIMA CO.	Ron Anderson – M	Amanda McKinney-M; LaDon Linde-M
ZILLAH	Doug Stewart-A	Janice Gonzales-M; Ardele Steele-PC/A

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

Additional Attendees:	Speaker: Meloney Rosen, Executive Director of Yakima Valley Partners Habitat for Humanity
	Others: Jose Trevino (Granger); Jim Restucci (Sunnyside); John Clary, George Garcia, Al Hubert (Toppenish); John Hodkinson (Union Gap); Troy Suing (WSDOT);
YVCOG Staff	Shane Andreas, Vicki Baker, Tami Hayward, Maria Lopez, Jodi Smith, and Chris Wickenhagen.

**CALL TO ORDER:** James Restucci, Chair, called the meeting to order at approximately 6:02 p.m.  
**INTRODUCTIONS AND** The meeting was hosted via ZOOM. A quorum was present.  
**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** Patricia Byers, Mayor of the City of Yakima, welcomed the General Membership and guests to YVCOG's December meeting.

**BUSINESS**

*Approval of Minutes – [October 20, 2021](#) General Membership Meeting* *The City of Toppenish moved to approve the Minutes from October 20, 2021. Yakima County seconded. The motion carried unanimously.*

*Amendment to the YVCOG 2021 Balanced Budget* YVCOG Executive Director, Chris Wickenhagen, presented an amendment to the YVCOG 2021 Balanced Budget.

YVCOG General Membership Special Meeting Minutes  
 December 8, 2021

*A recording of this meeting is available*

Decision: *Yakima County moved to approve the [Amendment to the YVCOG 2021 Balanced Budget](#) and to approve [Resolution 2021-06](#). The City of Grandview seconded the motion. The motion carried.*

*El Nuevo Camino Program –  
Letter of Support*

Chairman Restucci presented the [Letter of Support](#) from El Nuevo Camino. Ms. Wickenhagen shared that Mr. Hanna is asking for this letter to submit with his application. This is a mentoring program, working mainly with gang prevention, helping people leave gangs, and educating parents on keeping their children from joining gangs.

*Decision: The City of Selah moved to approve Chairman Restucci sign the Letter of Support. City of Yakima seconded the motion. The motion carried.*

*YVCOG Executive Committee –  
Appointment of Nominating  
Committee*

Chairman Restucci asked for volunteers to serve on the Nominating Committee for the 2022-2024 YVCOG Executive Committee. The Nominating Committee volunteers are: Pat Krueger (Harrah), Naila Duval (Toppenish), and Jack Galloway (Union Gap).

## PROGRAM

*Presentation of 2021  
Outstanding Service Award*

Chairman Restucci presented the 2021 YVCOG Outstanding Service Award to Al Hubert, who has served on many councils and committees, including service as the YVCOG Executive Committee chair.

*Yakima Valley Partners Habitat  
for Humanity – Meloney Rosen*

Meloney Rosen is the Executive Director of Yakima Valley Partners Habitat for Humanity, a faith-based non-profit, providing affordable housing to qualifying citizens in the Yakima Valley.

Ms. Rosen provided the membership with an informative presentation on the history of Habitat for Humanity and explained the mission of Habitat for Humanity – putting God's love into action by building permanent affordable homes, building community and hope. Helping homeowners take the first step in breaking generational poverty.

Habitat for Humanity began in Georgia, in 1942. In 1984, the first Habitat for Humanity in Washington state opened in Buena and then later moved to Yakima.

Misconceptions about Habitat:

- Jimmy Carter was not a part of establishing Habitat for Humanity but has been a great supporter over the years.
- Applicants are not required to be a Christian or belong to a certain ethnic group. You just need to meet the criteria set by the program.
- The homes are not given away. Homeowners must put in 500 hours of sweat equity. The homes are appraised, and the homeowner pays the mortgage payment, which is partially subsidized by grant funds.

Success comes with partnerships. Homes are built with 80% volunteer labor.

Affordable housing applies to everyone, not just low income. This is the biggest key to success in any community.

Habitat for Humanity serves communities all over Yakima County. Habitat is not pulling out of the Lower Valley. Currently working only with the Cities and not the Home Consortium because it no longer provides a cost benefit to the home buyers.

Program criteria:

500 hours of sweat equity (construction site, or in their store, or at the Yakima office)

Demonstrate willingness to partner with Habitat

Demonstrate need for housing (spending over 50% on current housing, overcrowding or safety issues)

Economic eligibility – must have credit to qualify for a mortgage

Homes are sold to participants at appraised value and then apply for grant assistance

Homes cannot be ‘flipped.’

The ‘Re-Store’ profits are used to build homes in Yakima County.

Recently started utilizing 3<sup>rd</sup> party mortgages. Low-interest mortgage and special terms. This provides an immediate return on investment.

*Informational*

*Goodbye and Thank You*

Chairman Restucci expressed YVCOG’s thanks to outgoing General Membership and Executive Committee members.

*Introduction of New YVCOG Staff Member*

Ms. Wickenhagen introduced YVCOG’s new Public Outreach Coordinator, Maria Lopez.

UPCOMING GENERAL  
MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

2022 General Membership meetings may be held via Zoom, or we may be able to meet in one of our cities.

February 16, 2022

March 16, 2022

May 18, 2022

September 21, 2022 – Grandview

October 19, 2022

December 14, 2022

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

ADJOURN

With no further business, Chairman Restucci adjourned the meeting at approximately 6:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

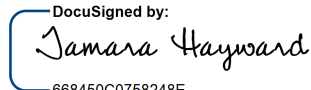


Digitally signed by Hon.  
James A. Restucci  
Reason: I am approving this  
document  
Location: Yakima County WA  
Date: 2022.03.28  
08:45:53-0700

James A. Restucci, YVCOG Chairman

Date signed: \_\_\_\_\_

DocuSigned by:



3/28/2022

668450C0758248E...

Tamara Hayward, Financial Specialist

YVCOG General Membership Special Meeting Minutes

December 8, 2021

*A recording of this meeting is available*