

**MINUTES**  
**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE**  
**PROTECTION & WELFARE COMMITTEE**  
**Monday, July 1, 2013**  
**City Hall, Room 207**  
**5:00 p.m.**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Ald. Steuer, Ald. Brunette, Ald. Boyce, and Ald. Tim De Wane  
**MEMBERS EXCUSED:** None  
**MEMBERS ABSENT:** None  
**OTHERS PRESENT:** Jim Mueller–Asst. City Attorney, Capt. Jim Runge, Mayor Jim Schmitt, Ald. Jerry Wiezbiskie, Police Chief Thomas Molitor and other interested parties.

1. Roll Call.

Ald. Steuer, Ald. Brunette, Ald. Boyce, and Ald. Tim De Wane were present.

2. Approval of the Agenda.

A motion was made by Ald. Brunette and seconded by Ald. Tim De Wane to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

3. Approval of the minutes from the June 13, 2013, meeting.

A motion was made by Ald. Brunette and seconded by Ald. Tim De Wane to approve the minutes from the June 13, 2013, meeting. Motion carried.

4. Notice of the change of agent for Kocoro, LLC at 301 N. Adams Street.

There were no objections from the City Attorney's Office or the Police Department.

A motion was made by Ald. Tim De Wane and seconded by Ald. Boyce to approve the notice of the change of agent for Kocoro, LLC at 301 N. Adams Street with the approval of proper authorities. Motion carried.

5. Application for a "Class B" Combination License by B & K Enterprises, LLC at 813 S. Broadway. (Transfer from RooBee Entertainment Group, LLC)

Atty. Mueller noted that the actual name is BS & KS Enterprises, LLC.

Ald. Steuer opened the floor without objection.

Mike Klasen, 813 S. Broadway, appeared and stated he is a life-long resident of Green Bay. They will not put up with trouble makers and already have security cameras in place and will have security on the weekends.

There were no objections from the City Attorney's Office or the Police Department.

A motion was made by Ald. Brunette and seconded by Ald. Tim De Wane to approve the application for a "Class B" Combination License by BS & KS Enterprises, LLC at 813 S. Broadway with the approval of the proper authorities. (Transfer from RooBee Entertainment Group, ILC) Motion carried.

6. Application for one of seven available "Class B" Combination Licenses by Denis La at 418 S. Military Avenue.

There were no objections from the City Attorney's Office or the Police Department.

A motion was made by Ald. Brunette and seconded by Ald. Tim De Wane to approve the application for one of seven available "Class B" Combination Licenses by Denis La at 418 S. Military Avenue with the approval of the proper authorities. Motion carried.

7. Request by Ald. Steuer to discuss the progress of the HOPE Task Force on homelessness.

Ald. Steuer reported after the December 12, 2012, Protection & Welfare Committee the HOPE Task Force was formed consisting of three teams.

Joe Prosser appeared and stated he is part of Team 1 and shared the names of other team members. Their vision is for a full service resource center in downtown to serve a mixed population of adults looking to better their lives. A center that will make these individuals feel welcome and to socialize without being judged. A center such as this will keep individuals from making poor choices that would require involving the police department or hospitalization due to these choices.

Keith Lang, Executive Director of Program Services with Lutheran Social Services (LSS) appeared. Mr. Lang stated that LSS is the largest not for profit organization in Wisconsin providing human services and summarized the services and programs provided, funding sources, and individuals that receive their support. They have been discussing with shareholders in the community ways to address the problems that occur during the daytime hours when the St. John's homeless shelter is closed. Mr. Lang discussed Wellstring, a gender specific program started by the The Sisters of Holy Cross and now run by LSS.

Jane Jordan, LSS, appeared and spoke of Wellstring's success with the female population in helping them gain employment and assisting them with their mental health issues and drug abuse. The staff consists of professionals who continue to further their education. Team 1 is currently evaluating building sites in Green Bay that would meet their needs.

Mr. Lang stated that LSS is willing to assist HOPE in locating financial resources to fund and support a community shelter. The amount of financial support is dependent on certain outcomes, such as the number of people using the program, length of stay throughout the day, drug and alcohol related drop-offs, and feedback from the community. Positive outcomes include the reduction of police calls, admissions to detoxification centers, referrals to local support systems, and neighborhood problems.

The resource center will need to: form a relationship with local government in order to receive their support, communicate their goals and intentions to the community and seek their involvement and financial support, and find an affordable location that will be a good fit for the center as well as the community. It is their goal to have the center, which they would like to name New Visions Resource, in place by October 1.

Bob Johnson appeared and stated he is the Executive Director of the American Foundation of Counseling Services and a member of Team 2. Their mission is to promote collaboration among community partners to enhance services and improve the outcome of the homeless. Our community has seen an increase of individuals in demand of services that include emergency shelter and housing, health care and job placement. Our goal is to develop a clear and coordinated ten-year plan to end homelessness with measurable outcomes integrating our best local and county services.

Mike DeGrand, 1404 Sonata Court, appeared and stated he is the President of Harvard Credit Union and a volunteer member of Team 3. HOPE is an acronym for homeless obligates planning efforts. Team 3 is responsible for corresponding with the community regarding homelessness in Green Bay and its effects on families, individuals, services, the City and its economy. Mr. DeGrand presented a video on the aspects of homelessness in Green Bay.

Bobbi (last name unintelligible), 1247 Lau Street, appeared and asked Team 3 members in attendance to stand up and introduce themselves. Bobbi stated that Team 3 is the eyes, ears and voice of HOPE. Their goals are to educate the public that homelessness does exist in this community and to develop a ten-year plan which will involve tracking community costs of the homeless. They would like to include mayors of other communities that already have these ten-year plans in place and inform us what works and doesn't work.

A motion was made by Ald. Brunette and seconded by Ald. Tom De Wane to open the floor without objection.

Gary Le Fave (address unintelligible), Freedom Life Skills, appeared and stated he thinks it is awesome what the HOPE Task Force is trying to accomplish. There aren't a lot of solutions to help the homeless throughout the year. Homeless individuals need more than just shelter; they need assistance with medical and mental health issues, finding employment, the support to show that they can become contributing citizens again and that's what this resource center will provide. If we don't get to the root of what causes this problem, then it will continue to grow.

Numerous questions from the audience were asked and answered: Is the resource center meant to replace social service programs that are out there to assist individuals in need? What other programs are available out there for individuals who need assistance? Will this just be another shelter for individuals to live at or is it to teach life skills? Are ten-year programs going to solve the homeless problems? Can homeless shelters be given permission to be open year round?

Mr. Le Fave replied that the resource center would be there to fill the void that exists when shelters do close and when other assistance is not immediately available. He would like to see it open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The reason for this task force is to explore what the needs and possibilities are out there.

Mayor Jim Schmitt appeared and expressed his appreciation to everyone on the Hope Task Force. The numbers of homeless can't be disputed. Mayor Schmitt stated he met with Bob Johnson from Team 2 and Deacon Tim O'Reilly from St. John's Homeless Shelter to discuss if St. John's could do a little bit more. He reported that Deacon O'Reilly stated that St. John's is willing to remain open during the summer months and would welcome everyone. They are willing to stay open during the day and work with other organization and the City. Mayor Schmitt stated that St. John's has been successful in bringing awareness of the homeless situation to the Community; however over 500 citations have been issued to their overnight guests. This needs to be addressed and he doesn't believe another homeless shelter is the answer. He would rather have St. John's turn the running of the shelter over to another resource better equipped to handle the needs and problems of the homeless.

Mayor Schmitt stated it was his and the City Council's job to find short- and long-term solutions to the City's homeless problem. We need to focus on these individuals and find solutions to take care of them during the day and have programs in place for them. Lots of work needs to be done, Brown County needs to contribute their assistance as well to help solve these problems; he likes what is being proposed and the leadership this force is taking.

Ald. Brunette inquired if the Mayor agrees with the steps the task force has presented. Mayor Schmitt stated that better education and early childhood development is needed, however he disagrees with financing a drop-in center. He stated that he believes St. John's should turn over their facility to another entity that could provide 24-hour a day service and programming but they will not be willing to do this. Their management needs to address more issues than just shelter for the homeless.

Capt. Runge stated the Police Department supports a 24-hour a day center. The Police still encounter the same problems during the summer months with homeless individuals as they do in the winter months when the shelters are operating. The library doesn't have as many issues during the summer; however, the homeless are now more dispersed throughout the City. Calls for police assistance haven't dropped.

Mayor Schmitt stated that a drop-in center won't address the issue of individuals sleeping in abandoned buildings. St. John's needs to turn over the management of their shelter in order to remain open 24-hours a day to provide these programs to the homeless population.

Ald. Boyce inquired if the Mayor would be interested in having City staff meet with responsible landlords to discuss ways of providing low-income housing to prescreened responsible low income people. Mayor Schmitt replied he would support this.

Ald. Brunette inquired if the City Planning Commission and City Council approved a plan for St. John's shelter to remain functioning as they are now if it would solve the problems of downtown, or is the Mayor looking at eliminating the direction of St. John's. The Mayor responded that he believes there is something out there that is much better and he would support a 24-hours a day program and invest funding into the right kind of program.

Ald. Steuer thanked the Mayor for speaking and sharing his opinions.

A question was asked if St. John's receives any payment from the City and if not, how can the City order them to do more than they already are. Atty. Mueller stated the City doesn't have the authority to order St. John's to do anything, he believes the Mayor stated he wants to work with St. John's to find a better solution.

Pat Lane, address unintelligible, stated she is an advocate for St. John's and is very perplexed; it looks like the City is trying to close St. John's. You can't force programs onto individuals; if they want to seek more than just shelter that is up to them. She doesn't believe the Mayor is fully informed on what St. John's offers to individuals and, if he is sincere in helping the homeless, he should start

working closer with St. John's to see what they actually do. There is no guarantee if a shelter is open 24-hours a day that people will stay inside it. The shelter is run almost totally by volunteers, donations and a few grants. A drop-in center will require huge amounts of money. Staffing and utilities are also cost factors.

Ann Hartman, 320 S. Jackson Street, appeared and stated that St. John's allows people who are intoxicated into the shelter which leads to intoxicated individuals loitering in her neighborhood. She wants to know where the responsibility on the homeless population is to the community, especially the intoxicated ones. Many of them aren't even from the area, but they tell the shelter what they want to hear so they can get inside.

Alexia Wood, 411 St. John Street, Director of St. John's Shelter, appeared and stated their primary goal is to get people inside, away from the elements, so nobody dies from exposure. They do allow people under the influence into the shelter as long as they are still able to take care of themselves, with the expectation that before they leave they need to attend a positive choice meeting in the hopes they make better decisions. There is an AA counselor who offers services and continues to do so after the shelter has closed for the season. Several of their homeless clients who attended the AA sessions have become sober and are residents of NEW Community Shelter. A few of the reasons they can't stay open 24-hours a day is that the shelter is in a gymnasium without onsite kitchen facilities, they cannot afford fulltime employees since most of their budget is from donations. They would be happy to collaborate with other sources. They would support a resource center that helps individuals secure housing and employment. Although the shelter closes April 30, assistance is still available to their guests. Tuesdays the shelter opens and offers services to help find housing and employment, food and hygiene products are provided, and a nurse practitioner, therapist and Brown County case workers are on site. Guests who don't have an address can continue using St. John's to receive their mail, and on Thursdays there is an AODA workshop available to those who wish to participate.

Dan Robinson, 446 Cook Street, De Pere, appeared and stated he was a former board member of St. John's Shelter and a former city council member in De Pere. He is currently a supervisor of the Brown County Board and described some of the county services offered to homeless individuals. Mr. Robinson also stated that a number of years ago he was a member of a homeless task force sponsored by the Mayor and Brown County and, unfortunately, it seemed their efforts focused on turning St. John's shelter into something other than what it was. He totally supports HOPE and thanks everyone for raising these issues again and encourages them not to focus on St. John's shelter but on involving the community at large and focusing on what they can do to help the homeless population. Homeless families are found in every part of the county, and it's time

to reach out to other communities and look at the bigger picture of solving this problem.

Robin Davis 2997 St. Anthony Drive, President of Freedom House Ministries, appeared and stated they are the only shelter in Brown County that serves families. Currently there are 98 families on the waiting list that have no place to go. Those families consist of 105 adults and 234 children who are either sleeping in their vehicles or sharing a small room in someone's home. Families with children are the largest growing population of the homeless. This task force must also discuss affordable housing and earning living wages in order for the homeless population to start sustaining themselves.

Ald. Steuer replied that HOPE is looking at the whole picture.

David (last name unintelligible), 159 N. Broadway, appeared and stated he was grateful this discussion is taking place. He stated that HOPE is more than just talk; they have locations in mind and the support of businesses, medical, legal and architects on board. They are concentrating on helping homeless families, not just single individuals. The center will be for everyone, including children, and their goal is to make it happen by October 1, not a year from now. What makes this nation great is our willingness to help others in need.

Corrina O'Malley appeared and stated she was involved in opening the first shelter in Green Bay in 1986 as well as the first family shelter, Crossroads. Soon after the City decided to become involved and developed an ordinance regulating the number of people that can be served and put certain conditions on the structures they reside at as well. This ordinance is a reason that St. John's cannot be open 24-hours a day.

A motion was made by Ald. Brunette and seconded by Ald. Tom De Wane to close the floor without objection.

Ald. Steuer expressed his appreciation to all team members of HOPE for their research and commitment to this project, and to the professionals, organizations and citizens in the audience that also contributed. He stated this task force should look at the countywide picture, not just the homeless situation in town. He shared a personal story from his past and reported that due to employment cuts, he lost a job and was unemployed for a year. His family struggled financially during this time, so he does understand how easy and fast it would be to end up homeless. He encouraged the audience and team members to continue their involvement in HOPE, and though the homeless situation may never be solved, this task force is going to do more than just discuss it. He stated we should show the country how our little city of Green Bay can make a difference when we get together.

A motion was made by Ald. Steuer and seconded by Ald. Tim De Wane to receive and place on file the request by Ald. Steuer to discuss the progress of the HOPE Task Force on homelessness. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Ald. Brunette and seconded by Ald. Steuer to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 p.m. Motion carried.

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