

May 25, 2016

Meeting of Dane County Health & Human Needs Committee

Agenda Item G. Reports to Committee

#2016 RPT-099 – UPDATE ON HOMELESS and HOUSING SERVICES

Members of the public were able to comment on three documents. The agenda listed them under “reports,” so committee members could only ask questions; they did not discuss or vote on the documents, listed below:

1. Community Plan DRAFT 4.28.16
2. DRAFT 4-11 Day Resource Center Concept Paper (DRC)
3. Day Resource Center Concept Floor Plan of 01.20.16

Seven people spoke about the DRC Concept Paper. Topics of concern included the immediate need to find or build housing for homeless people, lack of details about who will be served, location of the proposed site adjacent to a nursery school, length of time the county is taking to establish a DRC, lack of full funding to operate the DRC, and the inadequate size of the proposed site at 1326 E. Washington Ave. Priority services identified by formerly homeless speakers included showers, laundry, and space for long-term storage. Lynn Green, Dane County Human Services Director, said that she and County Executive Joe Parisi decided the DRC would have day-only lockers and not long-term storage because of administrative costs and complexity to ensure safety and security of private property.

Brenda Konkel commented on the Community Plan, explaining that it was a rewrite of the 10-year plan drafted after the March 2016 “charrette” on homelessness, but there are gaps in the new document. Regarding the DRC Concept Paper, she observed that if we actually had 19,000 square feet of space [rather than the 9,000 that Messner’s has turned out to be] a design charrette including homeless people might help fine-tune the plan.

County Supv. Heidi Wegleitner asked when the DRC Request for Proposals (RFP) will be released; Lynn Green said she wasn’t sure, but the City-County Homeless Issues Committee has said not to issue the RFP until after their next meeting, June 13, about 2 weeks past the previously stated May 31 deadline. Lynn added that there will be no draft circulated of the revised Concept Paper which will inform the RFP, and if the Health & Human Needs Committee needs more time they might take it up as an action item at their next meeting in June.

Heidi asked Lynn about answers to the TLNA Steering Committee’s list of neighborhood concerns; Lynn said she wasn’t sure when answers would be ready.