



Community Development and
Neighborhood Services

Planning Services

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Seasonal Overflow Shelter Community of Christ Church Neighborhood Meeting Notes (9/23/2019)

Overview

City Staff:

Sue Beck-Ferkiss, Social Sustainability

Marcy Yoder, Neighborhood Services

Shawna Van Zee, Planning Services

Beth Sowder, Social Sustainability

Neighborhood Meeting Date: September 23, 2019

Contact information for 2019-2020 Seasonal Overflow Shelter

- Operator: Catholic Charities, Joe Domko, jdomko@ccdenver.org 970-616-8629
- Facilities: Community of Christ Church, Gary Chatburn, gary.chatburn@comcast.net 970-833-0570
- City of Fort Collins: Social Sustainability Dept., Sue Beck-Ferkiss, sbeckferkiss@fcgov.com 970-221-6753
- Outreach Fort Collins: 970-658-0088
 - Outreach Fort Collins works to address disruptive behaviors that while not illegal pull emergency responders away from their primary task of maintaining public safety.
- Fort Collins Police: Non-Emergency: 970-419-FCPD (3273)
- City of Fort Collins: Neighborhood Services, general neighborhood issues: 970-224-6046

Staff Presentation

The purpose of this meeting is to connect with the community surrounding the Community of Christ Church to talk through how the operations of the seasonal overflow shelter ran last year and address any operational concerns about the upcoming operating season. The City works with partners every year to provide winter overflow shelter. This location operates seven nights a week to offer shelter during the winter season. A few things have changed over the years. The time has changed and now starts at 9 p.m. rather than 10 p.m. to better coordinate with the closing time of the library. Last year this seasonal overflow shelter served only women. There were approximately 20 women at this location during the regular season of November through April last year. Overall overflow averaged 114 people at night at all overflow locations combined. The emergency activations averaged about 182 people per night for the 16 nights of activation.

Questions/Comments and Answers

- **Question: I thought I heard the pastor say that this would be the fifth year. Was there a commitment by the church to operate for 5 years?**

City Staff: We do not know if the church committed to a specific amount of time.

- **Question: Have the numbers trended up for the shelters?**

City Staff: We have seen a bit of flattening. We track through the Murphy Center – that number has been around 400 for the last few years. Last year at this location there are around 20 women per night. This facility was used for men one year and the numbers were higher.

- **Question: When do the women leave in the morning from this shelter?**

Operations Staff: 6:15am

- **Question: The fire department would like more information about the operations. We will want to do a walk through this season.**

City Staff: Improvements have been made for egress and other improvements at the fire departments direction in the past. The operator has staff here all night while the shelter is in use. For more information the fire department can speak with the operations staff to coordinate a walk-through of the facility.

- **Question: Who is doing the UAs?**

Operations Staff: The operator, Catholic Charities, does BAs here, not UAs.

- **Question: Zoning question – is this a permanent use?**

City Staff: If the Seasonal Overflow Shelter use is abandoned (meaning not in operation) for 60 consecutive months (5 years), the use expires and would have to go back through the development review process to reestablish the use to operate from that location in the future. Based on what documentation staff could find, the intent of this section was to allow multiple providers to rotate the use of their facilities over the course of several seasons. The request for a Recommendation to City Council regarding a variety of Land Use Code revisions that address the siting and regulation of Homeless Shelters and Seasonal Overflow Shelters was voted on by the Planning & Zoning Board on August 13th, 2015 and published on September 1st, 2015, Ordinance No. 110 (link provided below).

https://library.municode.com/co/fort_collins/ordinances/land_use?nodeId=734168

- **Question: If someone is leaving or stashing items on people's property, what is the preferred method to reach out.**

Outreach Fort Collins: You can call Outreach Fort Collins and we can follow-up with non-emergency police. We personally cannot remove those belonging.

- **Question: Neighbors in this area have been told that if items are abandoned on your property, it is your responsibility to dispose of them.**

Outreach Fort Collins: We can remove needles.

Operations Staff: If you see this sort of behavior, Catholic Charities would like to know because as a system we are trying to create a sense of responsibility to the community as a whole for those who are using this facility. Catholic Charities would be happy to receive information because their presence here is a privilege. We are trying to get rid of the otherness and want to be an extension of our neighborhood.

- **Comment: If someone abandons a bike on your property, you can contact the bike coop. They will take abandoned bikes.**
- **Question: Is there anything that can be done about the smoking issues?**

City Staff: It is illegal to smoke in this downtown area. You can call Code Compliance in Neighborhood Services at 970-224-6046 to report smoking in these areas. The Old Town Library calls Neighborhood Services anytime they see an issue.