

Housing Meeting March 10, 2022

Attendees:

Chelsea Tremblay, Assembly Member

Steve Giesbrecht, Borough Manager

Annette Bennett, Humanity in Progress (HIP) Board, Working Against Violence for Everyone (WAVE) Director

Ashley Kawashima, HIP Board, Petersburg Medical Center (PMC) Behavioral Health

Chad Wright, Petersburg Indian Association (PIA) Director

Liz Cabrera, Petersburg Economic Development Council and Director of Community and Economic Development

Becky Turland, PMC Community Wellness Specialist

AJ Ware, WAVE Prevention Coordinator

Erin Michaels, State of Alaska Public Health

Kris Norosz, Petersburg Community Foundation Board

Updates:

- Both Borough Manager and PIA have recently been in touch with the same contact with Tlingit and Haida Housing Authority. T&H are waiting to hear if they have received grants from U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to build more housing in Petersburg. They have 23 total applications outstanding, two specific to Petersburg. One would be a housing development, a second would be a triplex. This would not necessarily be low income housing, but at least single family units.
- HIP has received funding through Alaska Housing Corporation (AHC) to help people experiencing homelessness. It's flexible funding aimed to help people get stable as soon as possible, so can be used toward rent, move-in supplies, and paying for deposits. It's new, both to AHC and HIP, so they are slowly implementing it just to ensure stability of the process. One person is currently enrolled, up to 25 may be able to be helped, and application is on their website, psghumanity.org, press "Services," to find the online application. The third Sunday of every month, HIP collects and distributes food at their location, 208 Haugen. Will soon be collecting camping supplies (sleeping bags, pads, tents, tarps).
- WAVE has received a grant through Alaska Community Foundation, ultimately ARPA funds, to help people with utility assistance if they have been impacted by COVID. (Taking time off work for quarantine, ex.) in a one time payment of \$250. They also have cleaning supply kits available. 907-772-9283
- Vakker Sted apartments are opening at the end of April. Applications are being accepted now, prioritizing those needing ADA services for the three bottom units, but a mix of income levels are included in the building. Fully to non subsidized.

Overview: It will be a "Yes, and" approach to help meet the many varied housing needs of town. What works for one person won't for another. So finding any and all opportunities for providing housing is essential. In addition, the groups meeting needs are stretched thin as is. There are more programs that exist at both state and federal levels, but the work it takes to execute them is extensive and out of reach for the largely volunteer-based work currently happening in Petersburg. Finding a sustainable way to maintain this work needs to be part of ongoing discussion.

Next meeting is tentatively scheduled for May 4.

"On a weekly basis people are deciding between paying utilities and groceries for their kids."