

CLARK COUNTY CORRECTION FACILITY ADVISORY COMMISSION

Clark County Council Chambers Public Service Center
1300 Franklin Street

MEETING MINUTES

June 12, 2018

3:00pm – 6:00pm

Attendance

Commission: Commission Chair Craig Pridemore (At-Large), Vice Chair Chief James McElvain (Vancouver), Louis Byrd (Byrd Legal Services), Carmen Carabello (Esther Short Neighborhood Association), Judge Scott Collier (Clark County Superior Court), Vanessa Gaston (Clark County DCS), Tony Golik (Clark County Prosecuting Attorney), Eric Holmes (City of Vancouver), Mayor Anne McEnery-Ogle (City of Vancouver), John Moren (Community Services NW), Kim Mosolf (Disability Rights Washington), Kelli Osler (Clark County District Court), Councilor Melissa Smith (City of Camas), Steve Stuart (City of Ridgefield), Greg Thornton (City of La Center), Scott Weber (Clark County)

Officials/Staff/Interested Parties: County Chair Boldt (Clark County), Chief Ric Bishop (Clark County), Marlia Jenkins (Clark County), Jim Rumpeltes, (Clark County), Mike Bomar (Port of Vancouver), Sean Philbrook (Identity Clark County), Erik Jensen (Jensen Strategies), Alice Cannon (Jensen Strategies)

Welcome/Opening Remarks

The meeting was opened at 3:05 p.m. by Chair Pridemore. Meeting minutes from the May 22, 2018 meeting were approved unanimously by the Commission. Chair Pridemore mentioned the recent media coverage of the Clark County jail project. The Steering Committee has asked Ric Bishop, Clark County Corrections Chief, to give the Commission the latest information about the project and media interest.

Communication from Steering Committee

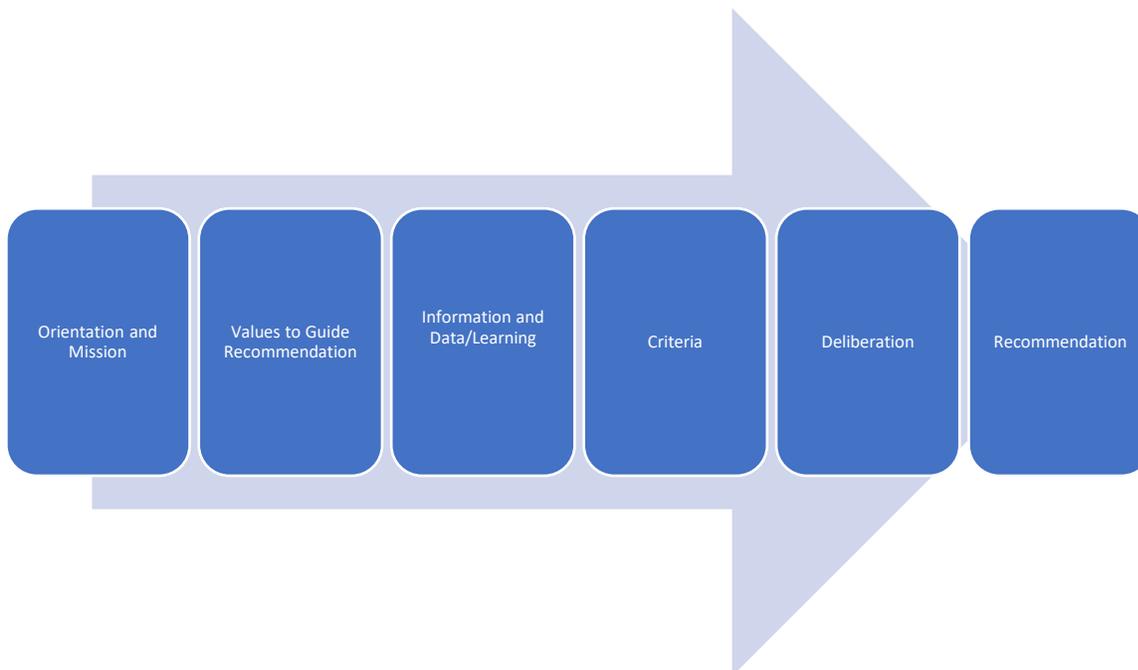
Chief Ric Bishop reported that he recently met with Harsch Investment, the new owner of the former Multnomah County Wapato Jail. Harsch expressed interest in having Clark County as a tenant but is also responding to interest from other potential tenants. The major question is whether Oregon and Washington law will allow Clark County to both lease the space and operate the jail. This is the preferable arrangement for Clark County. Clark County staff will evaluate if this is a legally feasible option. If it is determined to be feasible, the former Wapato Jail will be considered among all the options the Commission is considering through its process.

Agenda Review and Meeting Objectives

Erik Jensen briefly reviewed the agenda and meeting objectives. The Commission will discuss draft values needed to shape a jail recommendation, a draft list of information requests, and parameters for deliberating the future jail recommendation. Later in the meeting, the two judges on the Commission will provide a guest presentation on how their services interface impact the jail.

Work Plan Review

Jensen walked through the latest work plan, dated 6/4/18. He used the following graphic to highlight the progress the Commission is making to date:



Jensen highlighted the Commission is now in the information, data and learning phase. Once the Commission members all have the same baseline of information and data, the group will then develop criteria to use when deliberating and forming a recommendation. The deliberation and recommendation phase will occur in September and October 2018.

Commissioners asked Jensen the following questions about the process:

- 1) Will capital and operating costs be available to guide the discussion and deliberation?
Answer: Clark County staff are developing these costs now and expect them to be available in time for the deliberation phase in early September.
- 2) Is the November 1 project completion date a rigid deadline? Is there any flexibility in this schedule?
Answer: Jensen noted the schedule has been set by the needs of Clark County and staff will assess the schedule as the project progresses.

- 3) How will the Commission address the potential of using the former Wapato jail? Will the Commission consider it as an option? Clark County staff said legal research is needed to determine if using the former Wapato Jail in Oregon is viable as an option for Clark County, considering that Washington and Oregon law dictates how jails serving adjacent states must operate.
- 4) As the Commission moves into deliberation, Commissioners expressed an interest in having meeting materials in advance of meetings so that they may be prepared for productive discussion. Jensen said this was a reasonable request and that project staff will work to address it.

Review & Discussion: CFAC Values to Guide Recommendation

Alice Cannon, from Jensen Strategies, walked through the draft CFAC “Values to Guide Recommendation” document. Commissioners offered two clarifications. One comment related to Value category #4 “Fiscal Stewardship”, item b. The Commission asked to add more definition to the words, “Seek an outcome/results-driven proposal.” The Commission suggested clarifying this language to state the proposal should reflect the outcomes reflected in the values.

The second comment related to Value category #3 “Services”, item a. The Commission asked the term “best practices” be clarified to state that services should move toward the best outcome and result.

Information Suggested to Inform Recommendation

Cannon reviewed the draft “Information Suggested to Inform Recommendation” document with the Commission. Commissioners offered several suggested refinements to the list:

- Under Jail Statistics #1(a), the Commission requested that arresting charges also be included, in addition to the Inmate Population Classifications.
- On Services #3, the Commission asked for more definition of the word “over-subscribed.” During the discussion, it was clarified to mean, “Which services have a greater demand than the ability to deliver the service?”
- On Financing, the Commission requested more information about the universe of sustainable revenue sources that could be used to pay for the jail.
- Under Costs, the Commission is interested in knowing comparative data on the cost per night, comparing the current jail, some other known jails in the region/State of Washington, and all proposed options.

- Under Costs, what is the comparative cost per inmate for contracted health care services, such as Correct Care Solutions, for all proposed options?
- Under Community, what are the other large capital needs facing the County, requiring future voter-approval? Do area cities or other units of government anticipate taking bond or tax measures before voters in 2019? What is the anticipated cumulative impact on taxpayers?
- Under Community, how will a new jail proposal impact the need for more court space? How will new jail or court space impact the needs and costs of the public defender system?
- Under Trends, the Commission suggested that trend data be collected with enough historical context to identify trend patterns.
- Under Trends, the Commission is interested in knowing how justice system policy changes have impacted jail space needs?
- Under Trends, how do juvenile incarceration trends impact future adult incarceration needs?
- Under Best Practices, add a section that addresses the delivery of mental health treatment inside the jail.
- Under Best Practices, add a section on Construction Project Delivery options.

Review & Decision: Discussion Parameters to Inform Recommendation

Jensen reviewed the draft “Discussion Parameters to Inform Recommendation” document with the Commission. The purpose of this document is to define the parameters of the Commission’s discussion in developing their recommendations. The Commission requested the following adjustments to the language:

1. Item 3(a) should now read, “Programmatic considerations will include: Existing external diversionary programs **and trends.**” The Commission added trends to this statement.
2. Item 3(b) should now read, “Programmatic considerations will include: Ability to provide internal social service **and treatment** programs.” The Commission added treatment to this statement
3. On Item 4, add a new section (e) to read, “Scalability to meet future growth and needs.”
4. On Item 4, add a new section (f) to read, “The Option of multiple locations.”

5. On Item 4, add a new section (g) to read, “Needs to meet zoning and Comprehensive Plan designations.”
6. On Item 5, add a new section (c) that reads, “Community safety consideration for adjacent neighborhoods.”

Presentation: District and Superior Court Perspectives

District Court Judge Kelli Osler and Superior Court Judge Scott Collier presented background and perspectives about the relationship between the courts and jail services. They described the difference between the District Court and Superior Court. The District Court has jurisdiction over misdemeanors and crimes that have the potential penalty of less than a year incarceration, while the Superior Court has jurisdiction over felonies.

The presentation gave jail population statistics, along with booking criteria statistics. The booking criteria were developed years ago to give corrections staff direction on how to manage overcrowding. That is, the booking criteria indicate the conditions by which inmates can be booked and released from the jail, in situations of overcrowding.

The judges reviewed the variables they use to set bail for inmates. They included two examples of an inmate risk assessment worksheet completed for each new jail booking. Two counties in Washington (Yakima and Spokane) are piloting the use of different criteria for pre-trial release. These counties are also creating a new, comprehensive system to manage pre-trial services.

Judges Collier and Osler then spoke about sentencing guidelines. In Washington, Superior Court sentencing is heavily influenced by the Washington Sentencing Reform Act of 1987. The District Court must follow mandatory minimum sentences for DUIs. The benefit of having mandated sentencing guidelines is statewide consistency and neutrality.

Judges Osler and Collier outlined various alternatives to confinement. These include the use of specialty courts, diversion programs, electronic home confinement, community work programs, and probation.

Some of the current issues and ongoing challenges facing the courts include the aging courthouse, originally built in 1940. It lacks adequate space and has major design flaws impacting security for public safety and judicial staff. The probation program is in dire need of more space. Judges Osler and Collier also cited the impact current book and release practices have on the judicial system. These practices make it difficult to enforce court orders and process cases efficiently.

Adjournment

Chair Pridemore adjourned the meeting at 5:56 p.m.