

RICHLAND COUNTY CHAPTER 980 COMMITTEE

FEBRUARY 21, 2019

A meeting of the Richland County Chapter 980 Committee was held at 2:00 p.m. on February 21, 2019 in the Main Conference Room of the Community Services Building, 221 West Seminary Street, Richland Center, Wisconsin.

Members Present: Scott Timm (attended via phone), Mary Collins Johnsrud, Benjamin Southwick, Mike Bindl and Lynn Newkirk.

Others Present: Meghan Rohn

Approve Agenda and Posting: Motion by Benjamin Southwick, seconded by Mike Bindle to approve the agenda and proper posting. Motion carried.

Consideration of Housing Options for Impending Release of Sex Offender: Tracy Thorsen explained that she contacted several of the local real estate agents, however no one is interested in working with the committee at this time. Tracy Thorsen then conducted a search on Zillow for Richland County properties listed for sale for under \$200,000. The list was then reviewed by Lynn Newkirk and Mike Bindle to identify if any schools or child care centers were located within 1500 ft. of the properties, and identify the quality of cell service available. A spreadsheet was compiled with the data for each property and the document was reviewed by the committee. Lynn Newkirk was able to display a map that plotted the various properties for the committee to view as well as a 1500 ft. radius of each property.

It was noted that it is still unknown if there are children residing within 1500 ft. of the properties listed on the spreadsheet. Tracy Thorsen noted she has spoken with Chief Deputy Knable and the Sheriff's Department is willing to assist in investigating properties the committee needs to look at. Clarification was made on the 1500ft. requirement regarding children residing in an adjacent property. It was noted that if there is a house that is closer than 1500ft. but is not on an adjacent property it would be allowed. It was also noted that just because this type of property would be allowed the committee may determine it is not the best option.

Benjamin Southwick informed the committee that the Judge has requested that the two attorneys involved in the case be kept informed on the status of the committee's progress. Benjamin Southwick was designated as the contact person for this purpose.

Discussion was held and 9 properties were chosen to pursue. Discussion was held regarding if the committee should have the Sheriff's Department investigate all 9 of these properties before sending the list to the vendors, or a property should only be checked if a vendor has already expressed interest. Scott Timm recommended sending the list to the vendors first to limit the amount of resources spent unnecessarily. Mary Collins Johnsrud noted that due to being a small community she did not feel that it would be difficult to check the properties and offered to assist in checking the

properties. Lynn Newkirk stated she would add the property owner's names to the maps that she was able to provide.

Tracy Thorsen stated that the next steps of the committee should be requesting the that the Sherriff's Department check the selected properties to ensure they meet the criteria required and see if any need to be eliminated. Once the list is narrowed down it can then be sent to the vendors to determine if there is any interest. If this does not produce any results the committee may research if any of the sellers would be interested in entering into a rental agreement.

Adjourn: The next meeting was scheduled for March 7, 2019 at 2:00 pm in the main conference room of the Community Services Building. Motion by Benjamin Southwick, seconded by Lynn Newkirk to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Meghan Rohn

Confidential Administrative Secretary