EVANSTON HOMELESS TASK FORCE
MINUTES
January 21, 2011

Present: Sue Calder, Co-Chair; Karen Singer, Co-Chair; Joyce Bartz; Sidney Caselberry; Walter Cody; Kav Hagopian; Oscar Hawthorne; Karen Hunt; Kate Mahoney; Kevin Mott; Sue Murphy; Dorothy Williams

Absent: Paul Hamnn, Rabbi Peter Knobel, Dan Lewis, Paul Selden

Staff: Sarah Flax, Housing and Grants Administrator, Alisa Dean, Community Intervention Coordinator, Officer Ron Blumenburg, Mary Ellen Poole, Housing Planner

I. Call to Order
The meeting was called to order at 7:30 am

II. Approve Minutes
N/A. This was the first meeting.

III. Committee Reports
N/A.

IV. Staff Reports
N/A

V. Unfinished Business
N/A

VI. New Business
• Co-Chairs Sue Calder and Karen Singer welcomed the group and began introductions.
• Sue Calder gave a short history and background about homelessness in Evanston and the nation, including new grants awarded the continuum.
• Each attendee introduced themselves
• The group identified the following topics that could be explored further.
  o Understanding the root causes of homelessness
  o Need to educate the community
  o How can Evanston keep homeless persons out of the criminal justice system
  o Prevention services: what currently exists now? In the future?
  o What support does the newly housed need
o How can the City maintain its competitive edge in accessing federal and state funds
o Could there be one location for all services for the homeless population
o How can Evanston replicate other progressive models to help those in Evanston
o How do we grow job training and employment
o What help is needed for homeless families (including single men with children) and teenagers
o Develop an understanding of the instability of homeless families and the long-term consequences of homelessness on children
o Community resources – both public and private
o Need to help families
o How should the City allocate resources to gain the greatest impact
o Need to better connect grant-making agencies with those which serve homeless persons

VI. Communications
• Discussion on best days to meet and the first Friday of month was the best for the group. The next meeting will be March 4, 2011 at the YWCA at 7:30am.

VII. Adjournment-The Meeting adjourned at 8:30 am

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Ellen Poole, Housing Planner