From: Diana <diana@wildthingsdwell.org>
Sent: 2/23/2022 12:40:24 PM
To: Dana Frankel
Cc:
Subject: Re: Help Asheville Bears

Thank you.

The 90K a year has been for renting and servicing 3 porta-potties? Could you break down those costs for me in general numbers.

Thanks.

On Feb 23, 2022, at 9:05 AM, Dana Frankel <dfrankel@ashevillenc.gov> wrote:

Hi again,

Okay, I must have misunderstood. A question about the trash bins and collection is whether the City would still be providing and servicing those, or if you would be working with a private vendor. The City has provided assistance in coordination with community members and homeless service providers on a limited term basis for clean-ups in the past, and has an on-going partnership with Asheville GreenWorks. I'm including Jes Foster here who oversees the solid waste division who oversees this work and will be able to provide more clarity on options.

Regarding porta-potties/handwashing stations, thanks for clarifying. The City contracts with Griffin Waste on management of 3 units in key areas of need (one downtown at Rankin/College and 2 outside of ABCCM facilities on Livingston and Patton), FYI. If you're envisioning the units on public property (sidewalks or other City-owned/managed property), let us know where you think there is the highest need/where you'd be interested in placing them as a start. I'd have to look into process options for this and would connect you with appropriate staff once we have a bit more information. We do enable placement of the units for construction projects and for outdoor special events, but the path forward here could be a little different. I also encourage you to reach out to Griffin to get a sense of cost. We've been spending about 90K per year on servicing the facilities. We did previously have more units.

If you're envisioning these on private property, our development services department would handle permitting. I would anticipate needing permission from the property owner. The best way to get clarification on the permit process going that route is to contact the Permit Application Center at 828-259-5846 or email PAC@ashevillenc.gov.

The City is definitely interested in collaborating with the community to address these needs. I want to get you to the right staff that can help.

Thank you,
Dana

On Tue, Feb 22, 2022 at 8:21 PM Diana <diana@wildthingsdwell.org> wrote:

Hi Dana,

HAB will pay for the receptacles and servicing. We are also considering porta-potties and hand-washing stations that would be owned and served by HAB.

At HAB's expense, would the city give us the necessary permits?

We are working on figuring out where the most need is. As you know, there are complaints from business owners about public urination and defecation. Wouldn't privately funded facilities alleviate even some of those complaints and be a win for all?

Thanks, Dana.

On Feb 22, 2022, at 8:12 PM, Dana Frankel <dfrankel@ashevillenc.gov> wrote:

Hi Diana,

This is a tough one. Part of the issue of placing trash receptacles is also working pick-up into operations. For the public street cans, we only have those downtown. There is long-standing interest from other commercial areas to add/expand those units, but we are not currently in a position to do that due to additional resource needs that would be required. Residents of course are responsible for managing (and paying for service) for their bins; similarly for businesses which commonly pay private vendors for servicing. I just can't see a realistic way on how this could be coordinated by the City, particularly on a temporary basis.

I do think there could be some opportunity to assist with camp clean-up in coordination with existing non-profits. I'd suggest reaching out to Homeward Bound - Mike oversees outreach (mike@homewardboundwnc.org) or Amy Cantrell with BeLoved who also organizes camp clean-ups and provides assistance to community members experiencing homelessness, (belovedasheville@gmail.com).

Hope this helps. Thanks for your interest and ideas for problem-solving.
Dana

On Tue, Feb 22, 2022 at 1:34 PM Diana <diana@wildthingsdwell.org> wrote:

Hi Dana!

It’s been a minute. Happy Belated New Year.

I spoke to Mike DeSerio at Homeward Bound and he suggested I connect with you.

You likely saw a news report from 10 days ago about bears rummaging through a homeless encampment off Tunnel Road. Help Asheville Bears would like to help ensure the safety of campers and bears by placing trash receptacles in strategic areas at HAB’s expense.

We’re aware of APD’s new policy of dismantling camps within 24 hours, so it may not be practical to place receptacles but we would still like to discuss any solutions we can assist with. We know that public urination and defecation has also been problematic and we are open to placing porta-potties and hand-washing stations as well.

Please let me know your thoughts.

Thank you very much.

Kind regards,
Diana

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