CITY OF SHELTON – POVERTY TASK FORCE  
Meeting Minutes, Wednesday, August 21, 2013, 8:30 a.m.  
Public Safety Building (Fire Station)

A. Call to Order: Commenced meeting at 8:35

B. Introductions: Members in attendance, Melanie Bakala, Tom Davis, Steve Goins, Jessica Hopper, Tamra Ingwaldson, Marcus Jernberg, Joe Mikel, Jim Morrell, and Dave Salzer. Guests present include Toby Kevin, Kathy Geist, Les Watson, Kim Klint, and two other guests (names?).

C. Discussion of Crime Statistics from Ltnt. Les Watson: Les Watson provided an overview of the methods used by officers when arresting or questioning trespassers and other “street people”. The SPD estimates there have been 16 arrests of suspected homeless individuals in recent times, however 12 of these individuals provided addresses; Les indicated it is not uncommon for homeless people to provide an address, even if it is false. SPD does not check to verify information collected. Most arrests are for trespassing and urinating in public (four individuals, all assumed to be transients). Task Force members asked several questions, such as data on the number of complaints, if the ages of individuals could be tracked or collected, if activities were concentrated to specific areas in downtown, and if what is generating the issues could be identified. Les stated he believes activities have diminished since foot patrols commenced, and discussed changes in police training which results in a “guardian” versus “warrior” mentality among officers that is better suited to address these types of issues. Les indicated he would look into the tracking requests to see if complaints and other data could be made available.

D. Presentation of CHIP Data Series for Mason County by Kim Klint: Kim provided an overview of the data sources, particularly secondary data sources. Described the Community Health Improvement Program (CHIP) and the data generated (previously emailed to the Task Force). Kim stated that her belief is that many of the individuals in the downtown are unemployed or underemployed, and are not likely commuting in from Thurston County; this is a broad issue being manifested in the streets of Shelton. Kim indicated that the data suggests a majority “reside” in Mason County, and that most women have domestic violence in their background. Task Force and guests discussed Kim’s report and options to collect additional data. Kathy Geist mentioned the Mason County Transit Advisory Board (MCTAB) and their upcoming riders survey as an option. Several members mentioned the need to include the mental health element. Discussed the Task Force vision, specifically whether the goal is to address poverty impacts and issues in Shelton or all of Mason County (Shelton, understanding the issue(s) and underlying reasons extends beyond the City limits). Kim made a plug for the Task Force members to attend the upcoming “Bridge to Prosperity” conference from August 28-30.
E. **Sub-Committee Survey of Local Business Owners:** Task Force worked through some details regarding the cover letter, content of the survey, distribution and collection. The survey was amended to include elements from the version drafted by the sub-committee and the version drafted by Tom Davis. It was decided to include one or two public forums to assist with data collection. Jim Morrell indicated a desire to complete the needed work virtually and avoid added meetings, and volunteered to take the lead on this effort.

F. **Discuss Forterra Proposal for Visioning Process:** After a brief discussion, it was agreed to continue this item to a future meeting.

G. **Consider Election of Task Force Officers:** Motioned were made a seconded to elect Jim Morrell as the Chair, Melanie Bakala as the Co-chair, and Steve Goins as Secretary; all agreed.

H. **Future meeting dates/times:** After discussion, Task Force, agreed to continue meeting on alternative Wednesdays at 8:30 a.m. The next meeting date would be September 5th.

I. **Next Meeting:** Jim Morrell and Steve Goins agreed to coordinate preparing the agenda for upcoming meetings.