

Racine County Ch 980 Committee
Ives Grove Office Complex
14200 Washington Ave
Public Works and Development Services Auditorium
Sturtevant, WI 53177
Monday, December 16, 2019 – 9:00 a.m.

Meeting attended by: Assistant Corporation Counsel John Serketich, Legal Coordinator for the Office of the Corporation Counsel Nicole Jurgens, Racine County Real Property Lister/GIS Manager Kim Christman (by phone), Aging and Disability Operations Crisis Supervisor Amy Hart, and DHS Contract Specialist Angie Serwa (by phone)

1. Convene meeting

The meeting of the Ch. 980 Committee was called to order at 9:09 a.m. by Assistant Corporation Counsel John Serketich. Attorney Serketich gave a brief statement on the status of the committee.

2. Public Comments

There were no members of the public present and, therefore, no comments.

3. Approve Agenda & Minutes

Agenda for December 16, 2019 meeting and Minutes from November 18, 2019 meeting reviewed.

Motion: Nicole Jurgens moved to approve both the agenda and minutes. Seconded by Amy Hart.

Action: All Ayes, No Nays. Unanimous. **Motion passed.**

4. Discuss/consider process for making recommendation to DHS and Court for Chapter 980 sex offender placement

9:10 – Discussion held.

Michael Fink: Review Hearing 12-16-19 at 2:00 pm. Expectation is that this matter will follow Hinkle & Williams.

James Hinkle: Review Hearing on December 10, 2019 before Judge Laufenberg. Defense Counsel Ethan Weitz intends to file a Motion Challenging the Constitutionality of the 1,500-foot restrictions. Briefing schedule has been set. Next hearing February 14, 2019. Prior Motion for Damages held in abeyance but the Motion to Compel remains.

Daniel Williams: Case continues to trail Hinkle case with same motions and arguments.

Assembly Bill 55: Proposed changes were vetoed by Governor Evers so the residential restrictions for placement remain the same.

Further Discussion:

Fon du Lac County has a matter pending regarding one of Racine County's defendants being placed in their county. The Court of Appeals has ordered the case remanded to trial court and the expectation is that the defendant will require placement in Racine County. Angie Serwa indicates that another offender, James Lalor, is

placed in Forest County and that his case will likely also be sent back to Racine. DHS will be sending letters to the presiding Courts requesting their interpretation of the case(s).

Discussion held regarding “Child Safety Zones” listed on the City of Racine’s website. Properties on the list are “permissible” for the City’s ordinances which is only 750 feet. The list is not a list of available properties, only that the properties fall in the City’s safe zone.

In-rem properties discussed, but the concern is that it could take at least four (4) months to fully obtain. Reviewed several in-rem properties: 429 Tahoe Drive, Racine, WI – Kim Christman does not have the Honey Lake Community Park listed as a state park, she will reach out to Rochester to confirm who operates the park so that the Committee can decide if it qualifies per the statute.

Attorney Serketich asked Angie Serwa for any suggestions on how to expand the landlord vendor pool. Ms. Serwa indicated the State has a new vendor and that she will send the Committee an updated list. Ms. Serwa recommends that HSD make direct calls to the vendors if they are not responsive to the e-mails. Corporation Counsel plans to speak with the new Treasurer to seek new contacts for vendors.

HSD is searching rentals and tracking those searches; however, the search is more difficult as the listings must be pulled from multiple websites and other platforms (newspapers, specialty listings, etc.).

Next meeting Monday January 27, 2020 at 9:00 am. Matters to be discussed: in-rem and other properties for potential locations.

5. Closed Session

There were no discussions that required a closed session, therefore, the meeting remained open for its entirety.

6. Adjournment

Motion: Kim Christman moved to adjourn meeting at 10:02 a.m. Seconded by Angie Serwa.

Action: All Ayes No Nays. Unanimous. **Motion passed.**

Recorded December 16, 2019
Nicole Jurgens
Office of the Corporation Counsel