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HEALTH AND RECREATION COMMITTEE April 29, 2022

The Health and Recreation Committee of Wheeling City Council met on the above date at 3:00 p.m. in City Managers Conference Room. Committee members present: Chair Ketchum and Vice Chair Thalman, Member Seidler. Others present: Melissa Adams Homeless Liaison, Mark Phillips Catholic Charities, Crystal Bauer, City Clerk Brenda J. Delbert and media.

The following matters were discussed:

Discussion on Low Barrier Homeless Shelter

Ms. Ketchum gave overview of the need for low barrier shelters. While there are shelters and nonprofits actively housing individuals there are restrictions. Some examples stated are sobriety, State IDs, mission statements and purpose. Ms. Adams reiterated low barrier does not mean there are no rules or guidelines, but rather mild restrictions for entry. Mr. Phillips suggested models that can be followed in other cities on a managed shelter. Ms. Bauer stated all local counties need help; the need is huge for all of northern panhandle. Ms. Adams gives background on early development stages of *Life Hub*, molded from other cities and successful programs. The plans will include but not limited to the following: medical and proper hospital discharge care, addiction services, food, teaching life skills, and therapy. Ms. Ketchum believes the city needs to set the tone and manage expectations, while allowing agencies to do the work they are trained for leading to reduction in duplicate services. Discussion ensued about short term plan until long term solutions can come to fruition. Ms. Ketchum suggested to return at the end of May for further discussions.

There being no further business to come before the Committee, Ms. Ketchum, seconded by Mr. Thalman, moved to adjourn. Time: 4:21 p.m.