

From: [David Renner](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#); [Wheeler, Mayor](#); [Mulvihill, David](#)
Subject: New houseless accommodations.
Date: Wednesday, October 26, 2022 8:12:56 AM

David Renner, recently retired City of Portland PBOT Journeyman Carpenter here...

Food is Love.

Whatever happens to any large future camp, it must include food. Soup is the easiest thing to keep ready and there should always be enough frozen soup on the site to feed as many people as want it. At least two attendants should staff the public facing side of this soup counter 24/7. When there are a lot of people the soup can be reconstituted in a big soup pot - and when just a few folks are around, Staff can use some microwave ovens. This facility should be in some kind of warm space, (a big four-season tent with a hydronic-heated floor). Frozen soup gives you options to have more than one kind. If you have some hand food as well, you can always add that on the side. Fruit, sandwich, cracker, chip. All food provided in/on lightweight, plastic tableware and trays. Scullery. Food should be produced off site. Producing meals could be a separate venture later, but initially it should be a contracted service. Local grocery stores and restaurants are already donating all the food needed to make good soup. Once it is frozen it will last a year.

Every surface in this facility should provide a multimedia story of the road to recovery. Think murals and photographs and even those "charts with the little boxes and arrows going uphill". On the wall there should be the names of companies that are willing to hire people that recover. The City should recruit companies with jobs to offer, by providing a year of wage subsidies to the business owner. There should be digital kiosks to interact with support infrastructure via the internet. The color scheme should be based on Green. Every attempt should be made to create a calm, fairly quiet environment. A lighting designer with long experience should pick the lighting.

Inside the Chow Hall, in addition to a bunch of small round tables, there should also be some cubicles with half walls at least 7 feet tall, and plenty of plexiglas so anybody can see inside down to knee level. These should be clearly marked as Counseling Facilities, and there should be a kiosk to schedule a meet with a counselor. "Get Help Right Here". Two openings to enter or exit on opposite walls. No doors. Round, steel table, wood top. Three chairs with backs - and a stool - On swing arms bolted to the floor. Leave room for a wheelchair. Provide table with USB power.

This chow hall should be at the center of the Camp. Wide pathways should radiate out from it into the surrounding camp. Night lighting should be solar powered; motion sensor; free standing; mounted 16 feet off the ground on square wood 4 x 4 posts. Put the restrooms in the apex created at the intersections of the pathways to a Ring Path around the chow hall. Make all the street furniture too heavy to move without a forklift. Alternate between bathrooms and showers at each intersection. Provide a staffed laundry station. Pathways should be well compacted gravel locked together with a binder like you will find on a good Forest Service facility.

And here is the rest of the love.... Being cold sucks. Being wet and cold sucks even more. There should be raised, heated tent platforms. Bathroom style electric heating in the floor.

Just a 4 foot square - sandwiched in a wood box full of play sand - with an exposed metal top. ***This is how you prevent fire.*** This is how you show love to someone climbing in a sleeping bag in a wet tent on a wet night. Winter nights are long. Embrace wall tents. Buy good ones. M*A*S*H style.

When you open the camp, you will need to staff it with employees. You want initially, to have way more employees than you think you need. The facility itself should be the first place listed on the employment billboard. In addition to regular employees, you should approach all the churches and colleges that are local and seek out volunteers. You want employment to be a clearly available first step to every person that lands at the facility. Indeed; you will find that on day-One, you will be receiving patrons that are honestly just down on their luck and all they need is a clean break away from an abusive partner or parent. These people are your best chance to demonstrate to the rest of the patrons that change is possible; and when they move on, if you can get their permission, images of them in the future should be a part of the Mural of Recovery. Patrons that have graduated should be encouraged to return from time to time and have lunch and share community with individuals in transition. They should get rock star parking to make this an easy thing for them to do.

Community is the only thing that can solve our problems. The lunch counter should eventually also be open to the public; and the soup should be good enough that they will come. Food is Love.

The entire facility should be named ***The Green Room.***

Good Luck. Be Well.

David Renner
Journeyman Carpenter