

City of Bend
City Council Stewardship Subcommittee
January 22, 2024

The meeting of the City Council Stewardship Subcommittee was called to order at 11:36 a.m. on Monday, January 22, 2024, in the City Council Chambers, 710 NW Wall Street, and online.

1. **Roll Call:** Mayor Pro Tem Megan Perkins, Councilor Barb Campbell, Councilor Mike Riley (Councilor Riley arrived at 11:55 a.m.)

2. **Approval of Minutes**

Councilor Campbell moved to approve the November 27, 2023, meeting minutes. Councilor Perkins seconded the motion. Voice Vote – Mayor Pro Tem Perkins, Councilor Campbell and Councilor Riley Yes 2 No 0

3. **Safe Parking and Shelter – Update & Guidance Request**, by City of Bend’s Senior Program Manager Amy Fraley, Houselessness Solutions and Shelter Coordinator Brook Okeefe, and Housing Director Lynne McConnell

Senior Program Manager Amy Fraley, Houselessness Solutions and Shelter Coordinator Brook Okeefe, and Housing Director Lynne McConnell gave the presentation.

Slides included:

- Shelter & Safe Parking
- Council Goals: Optimize Housing Continuum
 - Actions: Seek sustainable funding for shelter operations to maintain existing level of shelter beds. Explore revenue and code/policy options to increase affordable and middle-income housing. Actively pursue partnerships to create land availability, funding, and additional capacity for emergency shelters, transitional and affordable housing, and supportive services. Surplus City-owned properties to meet housing needs.
 - How We Will Measure Progress: permitting process times, Walk and Bike score, per capita VMT, ratio of private to public investment leveraged through Core Area programs, ratio of private to public investment within the Juniper Ridge Overlay Zone, percent of total housing stock that is Affordable, number of units for those making 30% AMI or below, number of people moved to stable housing, number of beds to support houseless individuals/households (low-barrier beds, transitional housing beds, permanent supportive housing beds, etc.)
- Houselessness in Bend: Time in Central Oregon, Point in Time Count happening week of January 21, 2024
- Lighthouse Navigation Center
 - Operator: Shepherd’s House
 - 100 low-barrier shelter beds

- Funding: Dept. of Administrative Services grant (DAS) \$2.5M and Executive Order (EO) funding for Day Services
- 3 locations
- December 2023: 3256 shelter beds utilized, 105% overnight occupancy, 132 average daytime participants, 430 unduplicated participants served.
- Franklin Avenue Shelter
 - Operator: Shepherd’s House
 - 60 low-barrier shelter beds
 - Funding: EO 23-02 \$1,060,450. Deschutes County ARPA \$750,000. City ARPA \$750,000.
 - December 2023: 61 clients served, 14 families, 22 medically vulnerable individuals.
- Stepping Stone
 - Operator: NeighborImpact
 - 28 Units (56 beds)
 - Services: Case management and daily meals
 - July-November 2023: 6,900+ Shelter Nights, 72 Unique Individuals, 8 Transitions.
- Central Oregon Villages’ Temporary Outdoor Shelter
 - Operator: Central Oregon Villages
 - Property Owner: Desert Streams Church
 - Facilities & Services: 8 pallet shelters & 12 cabins, case management (office onsite), showers & bathrooms, kitchen trailer
 - July – November 2023: 1366 nights of shelter provided, 23 unduplicated clients served, 5 transitions.
- Safe Parking
 - Total sites: 4
 - Total spaces: 12
 - Location: communities of faith
 - Operators: REACH, Central Oregon Villages
 - July-November 2023: 40 unique individuals served, 11 transitions.
 - *City does not provide direct financial assistance to any sites
- Overview of Safe Parking
 - Council adopted Safe Parking Programs into the Municipal Code April 2021
 - Who can host Safe Parking?
 - Non-profits, businesses, religious entities, public entities
- Two categories of Safe Parking: Overnight camping, transitional overnight parking accommodations (approved City application required)
- Opportunities for Safe Parking Program
 - Comprehensive coordinated approach – Communities of faith
 - Engaging ambassadors w/ experience in Safe Parking to lead
 - Collaborative effort with multiple partners
 - Informational Session for Religious Organizations
 - March 5th, 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM in Council Chambers

- Next Steps
 - Expansion Direction
 - City-lead
 - Partnerships
 - Await CHRO
 - Opportunities for program support

Fraley stated that the Second Street shelter is currently under renovation but still in use as a shelter. On the morning of January 21, 2024, the fire sprinklers malfunctioned and flooded the building. City Manager Eric King reminded staff that the State has declared an emergency related to the storm and the costs incurred to remediate the damage from this malfunction may be eligible for reimbursement.

Mayor Pro Tem Perkins highlighted the high rate of transitions from Safe Parking sites located at communities of faith and encouraged staff to continue working for additional Safe Parking sites. McConnell stated that Safe Parking sites operate through the City’s network of providers and partners, not City funding.

Councilor Campbell asked who provides case management or supervision at the Safe Parking sites. Okeefe stated that site hosts provide supervision and REACH and Central Oregon Villages provide case management.

McConnell asked the Subcommittee for input on how staff should proceed. The Subcommittee agreed that staff should pursue comprehensive partnerships with nonprofit groups, businesses, and public entities, while continuing the work with religious organizations. Additionally, staff should look again at utilizing City-owned parking lots as Safe Parking sites so that the City can be part of the solution. Staff will bring back to the Subcommittee or the full Council options to consider for future expansion of the Safe Parking programs.

4. Deschutes County and Cities of Bend, La Pine, Redmond, and Sisters – Coordinated Houseless Response Office (CHRO), Update and Year Ahead, by Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council (COIC) Executive Director Tammy Baney

Strategic Initiatives Manager Mickie Derting introduced COIC Executive Director Tammy Baney. Derting stated that the overarching goal of the presentation is to provide an update on recent activities of the CHRO with a focus on the strategy to address unsheltered houselessness, and to request direction from the Subcommittee regarding stabilizing funding for existing shelters. If successful, the desire is to participate in funding for the unsheltered strategy. Tammy Baney gave the presentation.

Slides included:

- CHRO Update & Year Ahead
- Background

- In 2021, Deschutes County and Cities of Bend, La Pine, Redmond, and Sisters united to champion House Bill 4123 (HB4123)
 - Disrupt the houselessness crisis together
 - \$1 million in state funding to: operationalize efforts to address homelessness, and establish CHRO
- COIC Functional General Support of the CHRO
- COIC Staffing Capacity to Deliver on HB4123
 - Provide high-level coordination, centralized communication, and strategic visioning. Identify opportunities to more effectively leverage existing funds and access new resources. Create a more equitable, accessible, and responsive system for residents experiencing homelessness.
 - Lead the implementation of the CHRO's strategic plan and support continuous improvement of the plan to achieve its mission.
 - CHRO Strategic Plan Priorities:
 1. Coordinate our efforts & funding.
 2. Enlist the community.
 3. Expand services.
 4. Find space for the unsheltered.
 5. Focus on affordable housing.
 - Align state, county, and city resources to achieve the plan's milestones including sustainable funding for the CHRO office beyond the HB 4123 2-year grant fund.
 - Support community partners in strengthening and streamlining service provision and affordable housing development and supports under a shared set of principles, priorities, and strategies.
- Strategic Plan Priority 3 & 4
 - To expand services & address the crisis of unsheltered houselessness, and authorized encampment plan and shared process regionally.
 - Public Partners Roundtable (PPR): Enlisted by the CHRO Board to generate recommendations to help address unsanctioned encampments in Deschutes County.
 - US Forest Service
 - Deschutes County Sheriff's Office
 - HUD Continuum of Care – Homeless Leadership Coalition
 - City of Bend
 - Deschutes County
 - Oregon Department of Transportation
 - City of Redmond
 - Bend Parks & Recreation
 - Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council
 - Values & Criteria:
 - Ensure Comprehensive and Broad Community Engagement
 - Assure Safety and Quality of Life for All
 - Respect and Protect Important Partnerships and Collaboration
 - Additional Criteria:

- Working to develop a set of diverse, multiple options/projects scaled appropriately to meet size, barrier, and service needs of the project's target population.
 - Considering feasibility from service provider, land use, terrain, access, and timeline perspective.
- PPR: to expand services & address the crisis of unsheltered houselessness, and authorized encampment plan and shared process regionally.
 - Adopt Technical Assistance Package
 - Approve Regional Approach
 - Approve Next Steps
- RFP & Funding
 - COIC Facilitating the RFP on behalf of the CHRO
 - Service Provider community Roundtable to help design/develop Pre-Bid RFP
 - Two Part Proposal:
 - Part 1 – Site Identification, development, and public engagement
 - Part 2 – Implementation and Program Operation
 - CHRO Board – Joint Funding Request from:
 - Governor's Office & Legislative Body
 - Deschutes County & Cities of Bend, La Pine, Redmond, Sisters
 - PPR Partners: Forest Services & ODOT
 - COIC
 - Community-wide
- Anticipated Timeline (after verifying with Providers)
 - Feb. 5, 2024 – Issuance of RFP documents
 - Feb. 12, 2024 – RFP Open House (optional)
 - Feb. 20, 2024 – Deadline for proposal submission (Phase 1)
 - Feb. 24, 2024 – Notice of Progress to Phase 2
 - March 15, 2024 – Deadline for proposal submission (Phase 2)
 - March 22, 2024 – Notice of Intent to Award(s)
- Other CHRO Topics of Interest: Hiring Update – CHRO Staff, Data Dashboard, Public Engagement Campaign
- PPR Engagement Strategies
 - Launch a multi-faceted campaign to educate and inform the public
 - Community events, dialogues, meet-ups
 - Media campaigns: articles, radio spots, blogs, billboards, bulletin boards
 - Talking points on myths, facts, and engagement opportunities for public officials/entities to use in building coherent and coordinated messaging
 - Letters to the Editor, news stories, and focus pieces
 - Tours, site visit and volunteer opportunities to increase contact and knowledge of and comfort with unhoused members of the community
 - Campaign Goals
 - Deepen understanding of factors that lead to homelessness
 - Directly address fears and concerns with factual, practical information
 - Increase community understanding of and trust in the Point-in-Time count

- Debunk myths, misperceptions, and address bias
- Diminish stigma and marginalization
- Build opportunities for connection and relationship
- Staff proposed starting \$50,000 budget leveraging existing budget information from projects that have similar outputs.
- CHRO Board Direction: Come back with a detailed breakdown of output and cost

Mayor Pro Tem Perkins stated that having the additional Coordinated Houseless Response Office (CHRO) Board Members has been beneficial in providing additional opportunities for collaboration. Councilor Campbell asked about the Objective Site Evaluation Template. King stated that staff created and used criteria to evaluate City-owned sites to determine workable options, and that this template could be applied regionally.

King discussed funding issues for supporting existing shelters and referenced potential resources from the State that could contribute to these efforts. The Governor's office has committed resources to the region for shelter pods.

Baney spoke to the importance of acknowledging that the houseless crisis is a regional problem, not just the problem of one city or entity, and that solutions are found through cooperation and collaboration.

Councilor Riley acknowledged the progress that has been made over the past six to nine months and asked about the timeline for the RFP. Baney explained the intent is to have an agreement in place in the spring.

Baney stated that the COIC is getting better at collecting data regarding the number of individuals experiencing houselessness in the region. The Point in Time count numbers will be released soon, and it may appear that the number of individuals has increased, when the data is becoming more accurate and a better reflection of reality.

The Subcommittee discussed the importance of collaboration in addressing houselessness, of listening to impacted residents, and listening to service providers and other entities in the region, to realize the most impactful solutions.

5. Adjourned at 1:04 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Morgen Fry
Deputy City Recorder