

Future Organizational Structure Options for RHGIP – Live Polling & Survey Information

Community and stakeholder feedback has indicated that there is a desire to continue the work of the Regional Housing and Growth Issues Partnership (RHGIP) and find a more permanent home for the organization. The work is regionally known, accepted and has proven to have affected positive change in housing and growth issues in a very short period of time. The partners are active and engaged. There are proven results and a future measurable scope of work to carry out the work.

Two options are being evaluated as the future organizational structure for RHGIP. Please review this information in advance of the live poll at the RHGIP meeting on December 12, 2022. Following the meeting, a survey will be sent out with the same information and questions. We will be asking you to share the survey with your organization and seek participation from your members to help inform and determine the future home and organizational structure for RHGIP. Thank you in advance!

Option 1 – New Funded Organization (current entity with a new name and structure)

The current RHGIP remains its own organization with the current work group, advisory group, subcommittee structure adding a governing board (that may include members of the working group) and executive director. It can become a non-profit or remain a collaborative, but funded, entity. It will rename itself to Kootenai Focus and add funding partners from cities, organizations, grants and businesses. The strength of the Partnership will not put any community in the lead but spread the support as needed throughout them. The mission will remain the same in housing and growth resources and information. The ToolKit already established has brought a strategy for implementing housing solutions and education on growth issues to the general public successfully.

Pros

- There is the least amount of marketing required for what it is and does other than name change.
- There are multiple examples of regional collaborative housing focused groups to emulate.
- Once the new organization is up and running, it could focus all attention on housing and growth (likely 50% of staff time, since a significant amount of time will be required for board development, administration, and fundraising).

Cons

- It will take time and money to organize a board and governing body and well as a corporate/business structure (including the legal documents). The current structure and volunteer assistance would need to continue until the new organization is up and running.
- It will take strong leadership and cooperation to gain funding.
- There is a high cost of overhead for a new singular focused organization.
- Possible fatigue of having multiple nonprofits/organizations working on regional housing issues and competing for funding, board members, and meeting times.
- While the new organization is ramping up, it will reduce the amount of time available to spend on housing and growth solutions as it will require time to create the organization, build the board, and fundraise.

Option 2 - Merger with existing non-profit

This proposal is that CDA 2030 merge with the RHGIP and take it on as a priority project. CDA 2030 is a local non-profit 501c(3) formed in 2013 as the visioning organization for the greater Coeur d'Alene area. It is currently working on rebranding itself to become a regional group. They have the ability and willingness to prioritize housing and growth issues by continuing and expanding the work of the RHGIP. The organization has a new Mission and Vision Statement, an adopted implementation with priority action items including seven focused on housing. The adopted implementation plan has 6 separate focus areas that have goals, objectives and actions that apply regionally within Kootenai County. They intend to be a connector to organizations and businesses that move forward the communities' vision of how they want the area to be in the future and help convene partners to accomplish priority action items, including housing and growth issues.

Pros

- The organization can provide existing structure and staff avoiding costly and time extensive start up. The leadership has examined the merger and is supportive of its success.
- The organization has been around since 2013 and has created community support for the mission. The partner meeting structure and strong board lend itself to taking on the RHGIP effort.
- The members of the board and its supporting organizations largely overlap the supporting groups of the Partnership and are active in the communities. Board members have expertise with housing and municipal issues – plus three board members serve on the RHGIP Working Group.
- The focus areas of the mission have been identified as having housing as a priority in nearly half of them.

Cons

- CDA 2030 was created with a focus on the greater Coeur d'Alene area and has had the majority of the funding coming from Coeur d'Alene. Expanding regionally may require some additional effort.
- The name change may not be enough to garner support and clarity that they've expanded beyond Coeur d'Alene.
- The inclusion of "2030" in the organization's name has a marked undercurrent with some groups who view it as a global agenda with negative connotation.
- Staff time would be spent on housing and other identified community priorities. The board is committed to continuing work for CDA 2030's implementation plan while making housing and growth issues a priority; however, staff time would be limited to 25% for housing and growth issues.