

Q&A Summary

RHGIP Advisory Group members were presented with two options for the future of the partnership: Forming a new, independently funded nonprofit or merging with CDA 2030, an existing nonprofit. Following is a summary of a Q&A session during the December 12, 2022, meeting of the Advisory Group.

Q. Can you share where your vision and choice might be leaning toward? Do you find one more successful? (Directed to Kiki Miller)

A. *(Kiki Miller)* Neither of these were my choice. These were derived from the options at hand. It was my original hope that there would be a nonprofit that would take the Regional Housing & Growth Issues Partnership as its primary focus and be able to move that regionally without having to build a new nonprofit. That was my original hope and that isn't the direction for the two options we have, but this is about what the community wants to see happen. That's why this survey is so important.

Q. How would the board of a new nonprofit be selected?

A. *(Kiki Miller)* Most of the collaboratives that I've studied, it doesn't need to be an elected position. What has normally happened when you have joint jurisdiction cooperation like this is the same way the working group was formed. The topic is around housing and growth which requires planning department participation, so the planners became the Working Group members. There was an elected official from each city invited to attend so they also became part of the partnership. The next step is what other members. We have KMPO, we have Habitat for Humanity, we have PAHA because their lane and what they deal with is housing and growth so that is how the partnership originally came together. It would be my guess that a new nonprofit would continue with the same slots that govern it being those people. There could be conversation from those people to have separate additional committees of funders, but where it's normally been done is from those leadership roles.

Q. What will happen to the people who have been very involved up until now if RHGIP merges with CDA 2030?

A. *(Hilary Patterson)* I serve on CDA 2030's board and have been involved in in-depth conversations about how this could happen. The board is very supportive of taking it on and the goal is to keep all of the same people involved. CDA 2030 has already created these partnership meetings that are happening quarterly for all of the other focus areas, so the goal is to kind of use that same structure and involve the working group and the advisory group and figure out what's the best mechanism, structure and frequency for meetings moving forward. That part wouldn't be lost.

Q. CDA 2030 has stated the organization could dedicate 25% of its focus to housing and growth issues. Is 25% of focus time sufficient?

A. *(Hilary Patterson)* CDA 2030 has said if they can get additional funding, they would ramp that up, so initially it's 25% for the executive director and volunteers would also help out. If there's additional funding that could be met with more staffing potentially or more time dedicated to housing.

Q. Many say their property taxes have increased around 19% and rents and mortgages will in turn have to increase. Now what?

A. *(Kiki Miller)* That's the reason why we are all here. I think most of the folks in this Advisory Group and the Working Group know that if we don't continue to move forward solutions to house our local workers, we are all going to suffer. We don't have the ability to close the gate and the valuations in property are continuing rise. That's one of the reasons why this organization is here. We are continually addressing what happens with growth and how our community wants to see that managed.

Q. I love what CDA 2030 has done and accomplished. I think the greatest strength of combining is the structure already being in place, but that structure could also be seen as a weakness because there is a group that opposes CDA 2030. The biggest concern I have is the diluting of the agenda. CDA 2030 has a very diverse agenda. Does anyone on the panel have thoughts on that?

A. *(Hilary Patterson)* There are six focus areas that CDA 2030 has. More than half of the action items are tied directly to growth and housing so there are quite a few action items and goals and objectives that are broader than growth and housing, but majority of it is growth and housing and ties together I think very complementary in nature. There are definitely some groups that oppose CDA 2030, but that might be true of any group that is formed. I think continuing to get the message out of what the mission is of CDA 2030's is important no matter whether this merger happens is very important. It's not tied to the United Nations. There never has been and there won't be that connection.

(James Casper) One of the comments I kind of identified with in the process of CDA 2030 reimagining itself it was tied to the circumstances and goals that existed when it started. Obviously today the circumstances are different and that's part of the strategic review they are going through. They've got a new process for a new strategic plan. That's kind of the point, to reimagine and be more interactive and at a larger scale in the entire county as opposed to maybe just more focused on the greater Coeur d'Alene area. The idea is to respond to all of these factors.

(Bob Seale) The new strategic plan they've developed is pretty broad reaching. It does look at the entire county and does touch on the housing issues heavily. It really does fit with the majority of their goals within that plan. As they start to pivot and be able to address the area more regionally, it will be a good process. I was impressed with the conversations that took place the last couple of meetings I went to and I look forward to working with them. Whether this group gets tied into CDA 2030, I think there's potential for success there.

(Kiki Miller) I have received a lot of feedback and info and I've tried to keep my opinion neutral. It's no secret I'm passionate about housing and growth issues. It's what the community wants to be in the forefront. I have had a lot of folks talk to me about the dilution of the effort. Why would you use the energy the effort and slow it down by diluting it with another organization? In my mind there are two good options out there, maybe three to four more. This is a talented group of people, and they keep showing up. I would like the super majority of whatever group takes this to be focused on housing and growth issues.

Q. Do you know if the businesses that are willing to support a new group would be willing to give funding to CDA 2030 so they could fund additional hours or staff? (Directed to Kiki Miller)

A. *(Kiki Miller)* - No they're not, from what I understand, but that doesn't mean that CDA 2030 couldn't sit down with the folks I talked to and try to convince them. A couple of them have been interested in this being a separate standalone. I think Maggie brought it up that a lot of people are looking at these coalitions that are focused on one topic and that's the affordable housing/AMI issue and not trying to take on other things. The folks I have talked to have been pretty specific that that would be the project area with measurable goals that they would want to fund.

Q. Do you see the future of RHGIP as a convener or a doer? Is RHGIP a way to emphasize work that existing organizations are doing and providing more information sharing/regional coordination, or is RHGIP a way to introduce work that isn't being done in the community?

A. *(Kiki Miller)* I think RHGIP since its inception has been introducing work that hasn't been done in the community. That's what the Toolkit is about, so I think it is both of those things and that is its focus. We are the resource and the connector to put together projects. If they need deed restriction help, if they have a potential land trust ability, if they are a landowner who wants to work with Habitat, we have the ability to help connect those people. The toolkit is the resources that are being developed and that is and has introduced new concepts and new tools into the community that anyone can use.