

Regional Housing & Growth Issues Partnership

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WEEKLY UPDATE 12/12/22

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Welcome to the Weekly Update! The Regional Housing & Growth Issues Partnership Advisory Group met December 12 via Zoom. Here are some highlights of the partnership's ongoing activity:

Resident-Owned Community Subcommittee: Victoria O'Banion of ROC Northwest said she has helped Oak Crest manufactured home community to incorporate and they are going to notify the owner that residents would like to purchase the community. Victoria is working with six other communities in Kootenai County so residents will be prepared to purchase their manufactured home community if the owner decides to sell.

CDA Regional REALTORS Housing Task Force: Lindsay Allen said the CDA Regional REALTORS are legally limited in the activities they can engage in, but they are planning a yearlong giving campaign. The campaign will operate under the Idaho Housing Partnership Foundation with contributions being restricted to projects in Kootenai County. Funds may be considered for use for down payment assistance or directed to local eligible agencies for development projects.

HomeShare Kootenai County: Executive Director Carrie Ward said HomeShare Kootenai County has an online donation option and are adding the application portal (for home seekers and home providers) to the website this week. A marketing campaign will launch shortly, with an emphasis on recruiting home providers and fundraising. The website www.homesharekc.org was recently updated and an informative brochure is available to view and download [HERE](#). The organization has received its 501(c)3. Advisory group members are asked to share info about HomeShare Kootenai County on their organization's website.

Schools Subcommittee: Jeff Voeller said the subcommittee drafted a resolution that was approved by the Lakeland, Post Falls and Coeur d'Alene school districts. Districts must have 66 2/3% approval to pass a school bond and Jeff said that has proven to be a challenge. The proposed resolution would allow districts to lengthen the term of the bond and lower the voter threshold for passage. The longer term would also lessen the burden on taxpayers. The resolution was presented to the Idaho School Boards Association in November and received overwhelming support. Jeff said they are in the process of finding a legislator to carry it into the next legislative session.

Public Safety/Healthcare Worker Housing Subcommittee: Kiki Miller said there is a housing project moving forward that could be used as a template for other projects in the community. More details are expected in January.

Idaho Housing State ARPA funds/Idaho Workforce Housing Update – Cory Phelps, Idaho Housing & Finance Association, said recipients of the first round of funding will be announced within the next week or so. A second round of funding is tentatively scheduled for the first quarter of 2023.

Regional Housing & Growth Issues Partnership Progress Report: Kiki gave a presentation that she has shared with other organizations in the community addressing the progress the partnership has made in addressing the county's worker housing crisis. The slideshow can be viewed [HERE](#). Questions were responded to at the end of the presentation.

Future of RHGIP: Advisory Group members were presented with two options for the partnership's future organizational structure. Kiki discussed the possibility of creating a new funded organization (basically the current structure with a new, simpler name) or merging the partnership with an existing nonprofit, CDA 2030. The pros and cons of both were discussed and then a live poll was conducted via Zoom (view results [HERE](#)). Participants were nearly evenly split between both options. A survey will be sent to Partnership members to share with their organizations so the partnership can get a broad base of community feedback.