

WEEKLY UPDATE 2/28/23

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Transition Update: CDA2030's rebrand to Connect Kootenai is progressing. Once the logo and branding are finalized, RHGIP's branding will be updated to reflect the partnership's new identity as Connect Kootenai *on Housing and Growth*.

Housing Availability and Affordability Study: Maggie Lyons/Panhandle Affordable Housing Alliance and the CDAEDC are working with the University of Idaho to conduct further studies related to the 2021 Housing Availability and Affordability Study. The studies will provide data to establish the deficiency of housing units in Kootenai County for a variety of income levels, taking growth projections for the next 10 years into consideration. The updated report will be a Housing Needs Roadmap.

Deed Restrict Program Management: Data from this year's [Housing Availability and Affordability Study](#) will help determine how many homes will need to be in land trusts to provide affordable housing options for homebuyers that fall into the 60-80% AMI category. Maggie said PAHA has determined that it is legal to give preference for housing to employees of the jurisdictions that approve land trusts.

Idaho Housing and Finance Association: Cory Phelps/IHFA said the second round of Idaho Workforce Housing Applications is about two weeks out. IHFA is working through documents from the first round of commitments to make sure each is still feasible given the rising interest rates.

CDA Regional Realtors: Jared McFarland, new president for CDA Regional Realtors, said their goal for this year is to put together a task force to help with fundraising. Funds may be considered for use for down payment assistance or directed to local eligible agencies for development projects.

HomeShare Kootenai County: HomeShare Kootenai County is taking applications. They are asking for help spreading the word. If you know someone with spare room in their house or someone looking for housing, refer them to www.homesharekc.org. Several home providers have been vetted and their listings have been added to the website. The monthly rents are well below the market average. One example is a furnished daylight basement for \$800 a month near Silver Beach or a furnished bedroom in Rathdrum for \$600 a month. View listings here: <https://www.homesharekc.org/listings/>

Resident Owned Communities (ROC) Subcommittee: Victoria O'Banion said the work the subcommittee is doing in Kootenai County is now being replicated across the state. She is working to raise awareness and promote legislative changes that could have an impact, but no legislators have responded. She is not hopeful that there will be any legislative changes this session, but hopes to at least increase awareness.

Schools Subcommittee: Jeff Voeller/Coeur d'Alene School District said the work of the subcommittee has stalled a bit due to staffing turnovers. He believes the legislative efforts will be slow moving. Right now all three school districts have supplemental levies going before voters in March.

Open Space Subcommittee: David Callahan/Kootenai County Community Development said his staff is meeting with bond counsel and municipal advisors this week to make sure November's bond measure is on track. Once the Board of County Commissioners gives final approval to move forward, the county will work with Taryn Hecker Media on messaging for the \$50 million bond to secure open space in the county.

Regional Health Care and Public Safety Workers Subcommittee: Kiki Miller/City of Coeur d'Alene said three projects are in the works to provide housing for public safety and health care workers. She hopes to have more information to share next month.

Annual Rental Housing Survey: Connect Kootenai on Housing and Growth is aiming to conduct the survey in May or June to compare results to the survey conducted in May 2022.

Joint Planning Workshop: November 2 has been tentatively chosen as the date for this year's Joint Planning Workshop. There will be opportunities for Connect Kootenai *on Housing and Growth* to do presentations for individual Planning Commissions throughout the year to talk about issues of interest and answer questions.

Connect Kootenai Open House: Connect Kootenai is inviting supporting members of Connect Kootenai and the partnership's Working and Advisory Groups to attend an open house. They are looking for locations in the county that could fit about 50 people. If you have ideas, email greta@cda2030.org or text Greta at (208) 620-1264.

Advisory/Working Group Surveys: Please remember to fill out the surveys that were emailed to Working and Advisory Group members this week. The deadline is March 10.

Cohousing/Communal Living: Kiki Miller introduced a new item for RHGIP's ToolKit – cohousing or communal living projects. If you would like to hear more about cohousing there's a workshop scheduled for Saturday, March 4, part of the [Innovative Urbanism Symposium](#) in Spokane. Grace Kim, one of the workshop facilitators, has a Ted Talk titled "[How Cohousing can make us happier \(and live longer\)!](#)"

Presentations: Greta Gissel recently gave a presentation to Kootenai County Democrats about the transition to Connect Kootenai on Housing and Growth and RHGIP's progress to-date. Greta will also be presenting at the [Post Falls Chamber of Commerce's](#) Connect4Lunch on March 21. Anyone wanting to schedule a presentation can call Greta at (208) 620-1264 or email greta@cda2030.org

In the News:

[Washington Trust Economic Perspective](#) on rent and housing affordability (Feb. 17)

[HomeShare Kootenai County opening program applications](#) (Jan. 31, The Coeur d'Alene Press)

[CDA2030 rebranding to Connect Kootenai](#) (Jan. 20, The Coeur d'Alene Press)

[Rising Rents Drowning Washington Cities](#) (Mentions Kootenai County and UI Housing Availability and Affordability Study)