

Regional Housing & Growth Issues Partnership

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WEEKLY UPDATE 9/26/22

CONTACT: Kiki Miller
Regional Housing & Growth Issues Partnership
Phone: (208) 661-1778
Email: info@rhgip.com

Welcome to the Weekly Update! The Regional Housing & Growth Issues Partnership Advisory Group met September 26 via Zoom. Here are some highlights of the partnership's ongoing activity:

Help Spread the Word: Weekly Updates are posted on the website and are posted so all are up to speed on the Partnership's progress. Advisory Group members should share the Weekly Updates, website address (www.rhgip.com) and website's toolkit items with members of their organization. Anyone with questions or input can email info@rhgip.com

Future of RHGIP: Kiki has been talking with Greta Gissel, incoming director of CDA2030, and their Executive Board about the possibility of merging the Partnership with CDA2030 and then rebranding the organization with an expanded, regional and housing focus.

Video Project: The discussion about creating short informational videos to explain the different Toolkit items that are on the website is being revisited.

Discussions With Developers: Kiki reported that a number of local developers have come forward to discuss the role they can play in potential solutions to the local worker housing crisis. Ongoing individual meetings are scheduled.

Working Group Priorities: When the Partnership was formed, community members identified the following as their priorities:

1. Preserving Open Space on the Prairie
2. Traffic and Schools
3. Housing Costs
4. Water/Aquifer Protection
5. Legislative Action

As 2023 approaches, the Partnership will be seeking input on revising those priorities to determine what the community would like the Partnership to focus on moving forward.

Open Space Subcommittee: David Callahan reported that Kootenai County's Board of County Commissioners has authorized the Kootenai County Open Space Commission to engage bond counsel and municipal advisers to move forward with a land acquisition bond measure to fund the purchase of open space. He is attending a meeting at the Governors office and will share information regarding the RHGIP progress, successes and future, primarily by direction to the website.

Schools Subcommittee: There has been discussion on the exploration of building some sort of housing portfolio for teachers , as has been done in other areas. Preliminary meeting discussion to come.

Deed Restrictions, Land Acquisition and PAHA Scope of Work Update: Maggie Lyons shared an update spelling out PAHA's county-wide goals "to reserve and preserve homes that local workers can afford to buy" and the organization's strategies for meeting that goal, including community land trusts and private development. The update also details PAHA's progress to date. Read the update [HERE](#).

HomeShare Kootenai County: Kiki Miller shared Board President Pam Houser report that HomeShare Kootenai County has three new board members and meets next on October 6. Their ByLaws have been adopted and IRS designation progressing. They have submitted a two-year operating fund request to Kootenai County Commissioners and are reviewing matching grants. A marketing program is ready to launch with hope to reach snowbirds before they leave for the winter. There is an extensive list of people wanting places to live, but also a number of people who are willing to open their homes. They are projecting 60 matches within the first year. More info is available at www.homesharekc.org

Resident-Owned Community Subcommittee: Victoria O'Banion works regionally with Resident-Owned Community Programs. (A recording of a presentation she previously delivered to RHGIP is available [HERE](#).) Victoria said a small, but growing, coalition has been formed and is meeting weekly at 8 a.m. on Fridays. The coalition is focusing on 4 key areas during weekly meetings:

1. Creating resources to the help the residents of Oak Crest
2. Increasing awareness of the program as an option for park owners
3. Legislative and legal action
4. Preparing/educating mobile park tenants so they can take advantage of future opportunities

The coalition has representatives from multiple mobile home parks in Kootenai County and is in the process in contacting at least one mobile home park owner. Questions? Victoria O'Banion can be reached at victoria@nwcdc.coop

Regional REALTOR's Housing Task Force: Lindsay Allen reported that she met with Kiki recently and explored ways regional realtors can participate in the effort. Lindsay said a push for end-of-year giving was discussed and is likely the measurable focus of the realtors housing task force. Their next meeting will determine the launch and logistics of the campaign which is expected to be in partnership with the Idaho Home Partnership Foundation.

Public Safety/Health Care Worker Housing Subcommittee: A subcommittee meeting is scheduled for Oct. 28. The goal is to look at housing projects that others are doing throughout the state that provide housing for public safety and health care workers. One local health care project that looks to be moving forward is a cooperative project with Heritage Health and the Lake City Senior Center.

Idaho Housing State ARPA funds/Idaho Workforce Housing Update – Jack Hawkins, Idaho Housing & Finance Association, said the first application round is due October 7 and, depending on how many applications are submitted, there may be a second round.

Planning Commissioners' Joint Workshop – A regional workshop is being scheduled for November, giving P&Z commissioners an opportunity to engage in dialogue with the RHGIP, legal and one another about housing solutions that are being utilized.

The Regional Housing and Growth Issues Partnership's Working Group meets at 3 p.m. October 10 via Zoom and the Advisory Group will meet at 3 p.m. Oct. 24 via Zoom.