

Regional Housing & Growth Issues Partnership

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WEEKLY UPDATE 5/23/22

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Welcome to the Weekly Update! The Regional Housing & Growth Issues Partnership Advisory Group met via Zoom on Monday, May 23. Questions and feedback can be emailed to info@rhgip.com

RHGIP SUBCOMMITTEES: The roster is being updated. Many organizations returned new contact information for representatives. Advisory Group members are asked to 1) Attend the 1-hour monthly meeting 2) Answer poll questions on behalf of their organization 3) Share information, weekly updates and other requests with their respective organization. Please assure that if you are named on the roster, you fulfill this request or send someone in your place. Your participation is critical. If you, or someone you know, would like to volunteer on a subcommittee, please email info@rhgip.com

OPEN SPACE SUBCOMMITTEE: David Callahan said Kootenai County's Open Space Committee is going to meet with the Board of County Commissioners on May 24 at 11 am to discuss public funding options for the purchase of open space. Preserving open space was identified as one of the community's main priorities during RHGIP polling of community members.

SCHOOLS SUBCOMMITTEE: Kiki Miller shared a report on behalf of Jeff Voeller of the Schools Subcommittee. The committee has connected with an individual who lived in a town that had a community housing trust to help provide housing for school district employees and is exploring whether that model could work in Kootenai County. Additionally, the Idaho School Boards Association is planning to try again to garner legislative support for impact fees to benefit schools and is passing a resolution supporting extending the term of School Plant Facilities Levies to fund new school construction.

RESIDENT-OWNED COMMUNITIES: Kiki Miller reported on behalf of ROC Chair Kerri Thoreson that the Resident-Owned Communities subcommittee is facilitating talks with a mobile home park in Hayden interested in learning about the resident-owned community process.

HOMESHARE KOOTENAI COUNTY: HomeShare Kootenai County has established its own nonprofit and is able to start taking donations. Chair Kandi Johnson said Committee members are in the process of finalizing the budget, working on bylaws and crafting job descriptions. The marketing campaign is scheduled to begin within the next few weeks. The HomeShare Kootenai County website is up at www.homesharekc.org

RENTALS SUBCOMMITTEE: Chair Marie Nail reported that 1,400 individuals have responded to the Rental Capacity and Needs Survey that was developed by the subcommittee and is being distributed by CDA2030. The survey will be used to gauge how much rental prices have increased, types of rentals that are available, what percentage of income is going toward rent, and more. Rental owners and property management companies are also being surveyed. Results should be available by the end of June. The survey link is online at www.rhgip.com and on the RHGIP Facebook page.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH TASK FORCE: Lindsay Allen of the Coeur d’Alene Association of REALTORS said the association has created a task force that will partner with and support the efforts of the RHGIP. They will help with industry-related needs and requests, marketing to their member, education and can also help raise money.

PUBLIC SAFETY & HEALTH CARE: Kiki Miller reported that representatives from Kootenai Health, Northwest Specialty Hospital, Coeur d’Alene Police Department, Coeur d’Alene Fire Department, Heritage Health and Kootenai County Sheriff’s Office have already committed to joining this new subcommittee which will create regular reports and data to help the community understand how the lack of local worker housing is impacting the quality of service public safety and health care agencies are able to provide. The committee, which will likely add more members, will meet monthly via Zoom.

IDAHO WORKFORCE HOUSING FUND/ARPA DOLLARS: Cory Phelps said the Idaho Housing and Finance Association is still working on an allocation plan to distribute ARPA dollars designated for workforce housing.

DEVELOPER/BUILDER OUTREACH: RHGIP’s presentation to the Developers Council has resulted in numerous inquiries and requests for meetings to discuss potential projects that could increase local worker housing, Kiki Miller reported.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY: James Casper shared that Habitat for Humanity has started using Land Lease or Land Trust structures for their housing developments. Through deed restrictions and the land leases, Habitat for Humanity is able to control the long-term equity equation at their properties so they can develop a portion of housing stock that is truly sustainable as affordable housing.

VOLUNTEERISM POLL: Advisory Group members were polled to help direct the RHGIP Working Group’s effort to determine the economic impact of losing community volunteers due to the housing shortage. Here are the poll results:



2. What percentage of your workforce is volunteer labor? (Single Choice) *



3. Have you seen an increase or a decrease in volunteers the past few years? (Single Choice) *



The results of the Advisory Group polling show that local organizations that rely on volunteers ARE being impacted by the housing shortage. This issue will be addressed in more detail in future Advisory Group meetings.

LOOKING AHEAD: Kiki will be forming an organizational committee to look into the long-term structure and role of the Regional Housing & Growth Issues Partnership by 2023. If you would like to participate, please email info@rhgip.com

IN THE NEWS: Boise is experiencing an affordable housing crunch, too, and experts are advising the city that there's no time to waste in working toward solutions.

Margaret Carmel, BoiseDev Senior Reporter, writes:

"Affordable housing is at the top of the list of Boise's most pressing issues, and city officials decided to call in some outside experts for advice.

The City of Boise partnered with the Urban Land Institute's Terwilliger Center for Housing to bring in a panel of experts both locally and across the country to study the city's affordable housing strategy and suggest other strategies the city could use to combat the growing crisis. The group of more than a dozen housing experts pitched Boise a range of ideas on how to add more tools to its arsenal and sharpen the ones the city already uses."

READ MORE: <https://boisedev.com/news/2022/05/12/boise-uli-affordable-housing/>

THE NEXT WORKING GROUP MEETING IS 3 P.M. MONDAY, JUNE 13

THE NEXT ADVISORY GROUP MEETING IS AT 3 P.M. MONDAY, JUNE 27