



## Connect Kootenai on Housing & Growth

### WEEKLY UPDATE 4/24/23

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The RHGIP/Connect Kootenai *on Housing and Growth* Advisory Group met Monday, April 24, 2023.

**Announcements:** Connect Kootenai Executive Director Greta Gissel said a press release announcing CDA2030's rebrand to Connect Kootenai will be distributed next week. That release will be followed by another press release which will serve the dual purpose of announcing the merger of RHGIP and Connect Kootenai and inform the community about the regional growth survey which aims to identify the community's priorities for Connect Kootenai *on Housing and Growth*.

**Working/Advisory Group Survey Follow-Up:** Greta will be reaching out to members of the Working Group and Advisory Group who expressed interest in working in specific areas of focus.

**Rental Assistance:** Emergency rent and utility assistance is available through IHFA. For eligibility and more info visit <https://www.idahohousing.com/hpp/>

**IHFA Update:** The IHFA is reviewing applications for funding via the Idaho Workforce Housing Fund. Cory Phelps/IHFA said they are hoping to announce preliminary awards by the first part of May. Jack Hawkins/IHFA said the state received \$19.4 million in ARPA funds and part of that can be used for social services. Jack said IHFA received 23 applications and is in the process of reviewing. It will be about 30-45 days before recipients are announced.

**PAHA Housing Availability and Affordability Roadmap:** Greta shared an update from Maggie Lyons/PAHA. Surveys have been going out and the Kootenai County Housing Roadmap will be released around July.

**HomeShare Kootenai County:** Carrie Ward/HomeShare Kootenai County said the first homesharing matches are moving in together this week. Carrie said more home providers are needed. HomeShare Kootenai County will be launching a social media push and she encourages Advisory Group members to like and share the posts. Anyone who would like brochures to share or to have Carrie as a guest speaker is encouraged to contact Carrie <https://www.homesharekc.org/contact/>

**Resident-Owned Communities:** Victoria O'Banion/ROC Northwest is continuing to work with several manufactured home communities to help them organize as cooperatives and notify landowners. Victoria would like to meet with city and county planners to discuss what can be done to preserve and protect the vulnerable residents of these communities.

**Schools Subcommittee:** Jeff Voeller/Coeur d'Alene School District said the Lakeland and Coeur d'Alene School Districts are re-running levy elections in May after measures earlier this spring failed in both districts. Jeff discussed legislative issues that will impact Idaho's schools, including a law eliminating the March election date. He said moving levy elections to May will make it difficult for the districts as that is well into budgeting season. One positive from the legislative session is that the state is providing some funding to pay down existing school bonds/levies.

**Legislative Session Updates:** Hilary Patterson said Gov. Brad Little [signed off a new law](#) that would prevent homeowners associations from restricting internal Accessory Dwelling Units. The law "does not apply does not apply to restrictive covenant against internal accessory dwelling units entered into prior to July 1, 2023."

**Pre-Approved ADU Plans:** Bob Seale/City of Post Falls is coordinating an effort between developers, contractors and planners to create off-the-shelf plans for detached accessory dwelling units. Bob said other municipalities have created sets of plans and guarantee a 30-day turnaround for approvals of projects using those plans.

**Cottage Homes/Tiny Homes:** Bob Seale/City of Post Falls said the city passed a cottage home ordinance that allows for a reduced lot size requirement and allows multiple homes on a single lot. Cottage homes are between 800-1,400 square feet. Bob said the city is also looking at incorporating tiny homes (less than 800 square feet) into the city code.

**Developer Incentives List:** Scott Krajak/NIBCA is working on a Developer's ToolKit, basically a list of items developers could ask municipalities for as an incentive to build workforce housing. He has met with all of the jurisdictions to review the list. He will be compiling the possible incentives by community that can be shared at a future Advisory Group meeting. He will run the list by Greta first.

**Rental Housing Survey:** Greta said Connect Kootenai *on Housing and Growth* will send out a rental housing survey in early May and will close the survey by the third week in May. Anyone who would like to volunteer with this effort should contact Greta at [greta@connectkootenai.org](mailto:greta@connectkootenai.org) or (208) 450-2620.

**Connect Kootenai Open House:** Connect Kootenai is hosting two open house events from 5-7 p.m. June 1 and 7-9 a.m. June 2 at The Cove, 510 S. Clearwater Loop, Ste. 100, Post Falls. Greta is looking for volunteers to help with the event. Email [greta@connectkootenai.org](mailto:greta@connectkootenai.org) or call (208) 450-2620.