

SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL JOINT WORKSHOP OF THE CITY OF REDMOND AND DESCHUTES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS WAS HELD JULY 21, 2021, VIA GOTOMEETING.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Jon Bullock – Krisanna Clark-Endicott – George Endicott – Clifford Evelyn – Ed Fitch – Jay Patrick – Shannon Wedding

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Patty Adair – Phil Chang – Tony DeBone

MEDIA PRESENT: None

Mayor Endicott and Chair DeBone called the workshop to order at 5:00 p.m.

PRESENTATIONS / DISCUSSION

- A. Homelessness Panel Discussion: Follow Up from May 11 Joint Meeting
- i. Introduction by Tammy Baney (with Councilor Bullock and Commissioner Chang)
 - ii. Service Providers Panels (identification of gaps in the service continuum and potential)
 - iii. Determine Next Steps

Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council Executive Director Tammy Baney made a brief introduction on the specific strategic investments that the Council and Deschutes County Commissioners could consider regarding the gaps in serving the community of Redmond. After many hours of discussion with service providers, she is bringing a list of impacts they believe will make an immediate impact on the Redmond community. The ideas will fill the gaps in the current system that are contributing to a significant increase in the number of unhoused citizens and other issues that the City is experiencing.

Councilor Bullock thanked Ms. Baney for coordinating these efforts, the service providers who provided the information for the report, and volunteers in the community who have make sure our houseless neighbors have some services and support especially during heat waves and other crises. This group has put together a strategic plan with action items and investment opportunities that can make a direct and immediate impact on our houseless neighbors and the community at large.

Commissioner Chang echoed Councilor Bullock's appreciation adding houselessness is an urgent issue with hundreds of our neighbors suffering and struggling. He stated there are hundreds of citizens who are concerned about unauthorized, unmanaged homeless encampments in their neighborhoods. American Rescue Plan funds provide the City and County with an opportunity to address these issues.

Ms. Baney explained the funding requests are not an exhaustive list of needs for a community growing as fast as Redmond. She acknowledged that communities often struggle with whose responsibility is it to solve the issue, which is especially pertinent when there are no identified and sustainable funding sources for these community needs. The purpose of this endeavor is to build a community-based continuum of options addressing housing, health, and employment needs while allowing law enforcement to enforce local health and safety laws. Ms. Baney stated if the Council and Commission were to identify an amount or percentage of funding that they wish to invest, it would allow the planning group to continue to refine the requests and have time to leverage other local/state funds to match City/County's contributions.

The identified funding requests are as follows:

Organization	Funding Request	Description	Total Project Cost
Bethlehem Inn	\$450,000 (one-time) (DC invested \$450k toward the \$900k request.) Final Phase of Project Turnkey	Commercial kitchen, security/fire alarms, furnishings, etc. Year round shelter for 88 individuals.	\$3.6 million

Shepherd's House	\$1.2m (one-time) to open shelter fulltime. (\$300k would allow for full build out of commercial kitchen which is needed in the community.)	40 + 10 long-term, male/female and some families. Low barrier shelter beds, program services/case management	\$2 million
NeighborImpact	\$50,000 (one-time) Increase childcare availability	20 childcare slots, provider training through small business development center	\$50k per 20 childcare slots
NeighborImpact	\$3.8m +/- one-time; secured \$1.2m +	Regional Food Warehouse serving 58 regional partners and over 5.7 million meals. Not able to meet storage/service needs in region with existing site. Warehouse used for emergency response in addition to ongoing food insecurity crises.	\$5 million
Safe Parking Program	\$20,000 - \$30,000 pilot funding *request development of a resolution to allow program*	9-12 + safe parking sites, with ability to increase. Investment is for on-site management of program.	\$20-30k annually
Redmond Oasis Village Project; Jericho Road	Project development: \$20,000 (one time) Business Plan. Initial funding for site development and construction, \$300,000 - \$325,000 (one time).	10-unit small shelter village with potential of 30+ units with auxiliary support structures and wrap-around service accommodations. Immediate needs: Land lease/donation of site.	\$20k Business Plan, \$300-\$350k build out
Camp Clean-up Program: Redmond Collective Actions & Helpers	\$10,000 annually	Campsite and Safe Parking Program: disposal of waste, gas/maintenance on garbage vehicle. Parking of vehicle needed, low or no landfill fees for disposal of garbage. Incentive program (gift cards) for campers to participate in program.	\$10,000 annually
Homelessness/housing coordinator *couple with COAD Position: Community Organizations Active in Disaster	\$40k per year, per partner (Bend/RDM/DC) Limited duration 2-year position to strengthen current efforts and provider network.	Many local agencies are working to address the unhoused concerns. This position would assist with aligning efforts, leveraging resources, enhance coordination and draw in additional state/federal resources to address need. Organize and deploy community resources in an efficient and timely manner during a disaster.	\$120k yr/2 year

Additional regional efforts to compliment and maximize the City's investment include:

1. Regional Housing Council pilot project fall 2021. Led by local elected officials to leverage exiting housing partners and resources.
2. Housing for All. A 70-member, regional housing consortium.
3. Collaborative Service Partner Network; Central Oregon Homeless Leadership Coalition. Many service provider partners working to prevent and end homelessness; the goal is to support communities and have a comprehensive response in place.
4. Regional Food Bank Partners. A total of 58 partners work collaboratively to distribute food in Crook, Deschutes, and Jefferson Counties and the Warm Springs reservation. Also, a critically important element of regional emergency response.
5. Regional Housing Summit. Slated for October 2021, regional partners will host a housing summit to bring awareness and education, strategize solutions, and explore best practices.

Redmond Economic Development, Inc. Senior Director Jon Stark spoke to the impacts the homeless activity on NE 17th Street are having on nearby businesses and the disruption it has on the development of industrial land.

Mayor Endicott noted that on the state level, there is \$700 million in total funds designated for housing and homelessness programs. He suggested that one approach could be to reach out to the Regional Solutions Team through Annette Liebe to see if some of this funding could be leveraged to meet some of the needs presented.

Chair DeBone stated the County is pleased to be able to contribute \$450,000 (50 percent of the requested need) to Bethlehem Inn for the commercial kitchen, security and fire alarms, and furnishings. In response to a request for additional information, Shepherd's House representative John Ryan stated that they currently have a lease-to-own agreement on the facility that previously housed the Grace Gate Church. Mr. Ryan indicated they are committed to purchasing the property, and the financial request would allow them to renovate it to meet current standards, provide a low barrier service year round, and serve men, women, and families.

Mayor Endicott asked for further information on the "sleeping versus camping" issue and a bill that was passed in the legislature. Mr. Witcosky explained that low barrier beds are the key to being able to enforce any restrictions that are put in place regarding camping. City Attorney Keith Leitz added that if a person cannot stay in a high barrier facility, there is typically a reason, and thus the need for low barrier options, specifically in regard to those who are camping long term along the street.

Mayor Endicott inquired about dogs and low barrier shelters. Shepherd's House representative John Lodise commented that dogs are allowed at the Redmond and Bend shelters. Bethlehem Inn Executive Director Gwenn Wysling commented they also accommodate service animals, and they typically have one or two at any given time. NeighborImpact Executive Director Scott Cooper added that their standard contract for funding requires the recipient to accept pets or make provisions for them.

In response to a request from Councilor Evelyn, James Cook provided additional information on the Oasis Village Project. He explained how the small housing units fit into the continuum of care to assist people in getting back on their feet. Councilor Fitch asked whether there would be parking space at the Village for the RVs that are currently parked along the street; Mr. Cook said that while the Village location would provide parking space, they can not require anyone to move there. In response additional questions from Councilor Fitch, Mr. Leitz indicated the City could require the RVs to be moved, if there was space available elsewhere for parking the RVs. Chair DeBone addressed the issue of clearing the RVs noting the County is ready to work with the City on this issue of clearing that street and making a plan to prevent other RVs from being parked there in the future. Mr. Cook stated that there will be storage space at Oasis Village for RVs.

Councilor Clark-Endicott asked for further clarification from Mr. Leitz about the City being able to "force" someone to move their RV. Mr. Leitz clarified that the City cannot "force" them to move their RV, but if

there is space available (like at Oasis Village), then the City can tell them they cannot park here. Chair DeBone spoke about setting a culture for Central Oregon, that has options as well as guidelines that must be followed.

In response to Mayor Endicott's comments on \$700 million in state funding available, Ms. Baney explained that typically those monies are designated for particular services, often to enhance programs that are already in existence. Ms. Baney elaborated that, in the case of a rapidly growing City like Redmond, the investment is needed to create services. She added that the people who would benefit from this proposed continuum of services have complex needs, and the goal is to assist them in getting to the next level. Ms. Baney said the current situation is the need for creating a system with a wide variety of services to begin to address people's needs.

Councilor Bullock expressed encouragement for the ideas put forth and urged the Council to consider how much of Redmond's American Rescue Plan monies can invest in these services. He said that if the Council designated \$1.5 million (approximately 25 percent of funds available), the Council could meet the needs of quite a few of these projects and get the City in a better position to meet the needs of houseless neighbors.

City Manager Keith Witcosky comment that cleaning up NE 17th Street will not necessarily prevent it from getting repopulated once the available spots elsewhere are filled adding it is an indication of the tremendous need.

Commissioner Adair spoke in favor of enforcing laws.

Chair DeBone shared that the operators of the Clackamas County Veterans Village found that 15 inhabitants was the optimal number.

Councilor Evelyn concurred with Councilor Bullock and urged the Council to take action now because the funding is available and the problem will not go away.

ITEMS OF MUTUAL INTEREST

A. Miscellaneous Economic and Development Activity Updates

This item was not discussed.

B. Other

This item was not discussed.

ADJOURN

There being no further business the workshop was adjourned at 6:06 p.m.

Prepared by Kelly Morse, City Recorder

APPROVED by the City Council and SIGNED by the Mayor this 31st day of August 2021.

/s/ George Endicott
George Endicott, Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/ Kelly Morse
Kelly Morse, City Recorder