

**ASHLAND CITY COUNCIL
BUSINESS MEETING
MINUTES
Tuesday, April 18, 2023**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Tonya Graham called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

1. Land Acknowledgement

Councilor Kaplan read the land acknowledgement.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilor Hyatt led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. ROLL CALL

Mayor Graham, Councilor Hyatt, Bloom, Dahle, Kaplan, DuQuenne and Hansen were present.

IV. MAYOR'S/CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 1. Proclamation Recognizing Historic Preservation Week in Ashland**
- 2. Proclamation Supporting the Oregon Shakespeare Festival**

Mayor Graham read both proclamations.

V. APPROVAL OF CITY COUNCIL MINUTES ***

- 1. Minutes of the April 3, 2023, Study Session**
- 2. Minutes of the April 4, 2023, Business Meeting**

**Councilor Hansen/Dahle m/s to approve the minutes of April 3, 2023, and April 4, 2023.
Voice Vote: ALL AYES. Motion passed.**

VI. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

1. Alan C. Bates Public Service Award

Mayor Graham honored Michael Dawkins' years of volunteer service to the city by presenting him with the Alan C. Bates Public Service Award.

Pam Marsh/Ashland/Shared her experience working with Mr. Dawkins and spoke of his abiding love for this community.

Roger Pearce/Ashland/Spoke of his experience working with Mr. Dawkins and his genuine care for this community.

Paula Hyatt/Ashland/Thanked Mr. Dawkins and deeply appreciated his contribution to Ashland.

Dave Dotterer/Jackson County Commissioner/Spoke about how Mr. Dawkins was easily respectful under any circumstance.

David Lohman/Medford/Shared his friendship with Mr. Dawkins since adolescence. He spoke to Mr. Dawkins' respect for others' viewpoints. He was always a doer and an enabler.

Mr. Dawkins expressed his appreciation for the award. He shared memories of his upbringing through the Oregon Shakespeare theatre. Ashland was his true love. He had arranged to have his ashes spread in the garden where he lives.

2. Historic Preservation Advisory Committee Annual Report

Senior Planning Derek Severson introduced Historic Preservation Advisory Committee Chair Beverly Hovenkamp who gave the annual report along with details of Historic Preservation Week starting May 14, 2023, submitted into the record (see attached).

VII. CITY MANAGER REPORT

City Manager Joe Lessard noted building permits were issued for 188 Garfield Street and occupancy permits issued for a cottage housing development on Coffee Lane. He announced the promotions of Molly Taylor as the interim Human Resources Director and Brandon Goldman as the Community Development Director. City Conservation Division staff would participate in Earth Day Friday, April 21, 2023. They authorized the emergency weather shelter to open for last night but did not have volunteers to staff it. The shelter would open the following night pending volunteers. He went on to review Look Ahead.

VIII. PUBLIC FORUM

Miriam Reed/Ashland/Expressed her dissatisfaction with the process regarding the telecommunications ordinance.

Bruno Marcotulli/Ashland/Expressed his dissatisfaction with the process regarding the telecommunications ordinance.

Kelly Marcotulli/Ashland/For five years she spoke to issues regarding cell towers. She expressed her dissatisfaction with the telecommunications ordinance, council, and staff.

Paul Mozina/Ashland/Spoke regarding the increase of EMS calls from the Ashland Fire and Rescue and wanted detailed data on the calls to determine potential funding.

IX. CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Graham pulled Consent Agenda item #2 for further discussion.

1. City Council Liaison Appointments

- **Jeff Dahle to the Historic Preservation Advisory Committee**
- **Dylan Bloom to the Forest Lands Advisory Committee**

Councilor Hyatt/Bloom m/s to approve Consent Agenda Item #1. Roll Call Vote: Councilor Kaplan, Hyatt, Dahle, Hansen, DuQuenne, and Bloom, YES. Motion passed.

2. Grant Application for Unhoused Emergency Shelter

Mayor Graham expressed concern regarding aspects of the grant application. Community Development Director Brandon Goldman and Housing Manager Linda Reid responded. This was a request for staff to prepare and apply for the grant. It would come back to council to accept the grant. It would require the city to maintain the service beyond January 10, 2024, when the grant concluded. The intention of the grant was to create rapid reportable outcomes. The short timeline and turnaround would not allow the city to create programs or development proposals to cultivate new relationships or explore new things. It was specifically for items already in the pipeline. Council and staff discussed how they might use the funds if the city received the grant.

Councilor Bloom/DuQuenne m/s to authorize staff to prepare and submit an application for grant funding to acquire and renovate a building to be used for sheltering purposes, and to contract with a service provider to oversee the operations of the shelter.

DISCUSSION: Councilor Bloom noted council could choose to accept the award or not, but it provided incentive to move forward with a plan. Councilor DuQuenne agreed. Mayor Graham thought there were low overhead permanent concepts and did not want to tie the City's hands for securing this kind of infrastructure. Councilor Bloom suggested using the word facility instead of building. Mayor Graham suggested using, submit an application for grant funding to develop some form of shelter bed in accordance with state recording.

Councilor Hyatt/Kaplan m/s to amend the motion such that the grant funding to acquire and renovate a building, be changed to submit an application for grant funding to address facility needs for the use of shelter purposes. Discussion: Councilor Hyatt thought keeping the amended verbiage vague gave staff the broadest spectrum to navigate the parameters outlined tonight. Councilor Kaplan agreed. **Roll Call Vote. Kaplan, Dahle, Hyatt, DuQuenne, Hansen, and Bloom, YES. Amended motion passed.**

Roll Call Vote on main motion: Councilor Bloom, Hansen, DuQuenne, Hyatt, Dahle, and Kaplan, YES. Motion passed.

X. PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Awards

Housing Manager Linda Reid spoke about the applicants who submitted applications and explained how the community development block grant worked and the allocations the Housing and Humans Services Advisory Committee recommended.

Public Testimony

Mary Farrell/Maslow/Explained how the Maslow Project had grown their program significantly. She described staff credentials, and how they worked closely with local agencies to provide the best possible service. Maslow Project had almost a 100% graduation rate. She

credited it to the involvement of the Ashland community. She concluded by sharing a success story.

Mayor Graham closed the public hearing at 7:32 p.m.

Councilor Hansen asked about the commercial kitchen and city use. Ms. Reid confirmed OHRA's commercial kitchen would be available to the city as needed.

Mayor Graham asked if the city could build navigational support into the state grant previously discussed to develop shelter beds. Ms. Reid confirmed OHRA would be required to provide navigational services and explained how. She was not sure if that would address OHRA's shortfall for navigational services currently being offered. City Manager Joe Lessard clarified the grant was on a shorter timeline. Councilor Kaplan confirmed funding for navigational services was for people who were housed, and the grant funds would be restricted to new shelter beds.

Councilor DuQuenne declared a conflict of interest due to her being on the Maslow Project board. She asked Council to recuse her from the vote.

**Councilor Hyatt/Hansen m/s to approve Councilor DuQuenne' s request for recusal.
Roll Call Vote: Councilor Kaplan, Dahle, Bloom, Kaplan, and Hansen, YES.**

Councilor Hansen/Hyatt m/s to direct staff to draft the 2023 Annual Action Plan for the use of Community Development Block Grant funds reflecting the award of CDBG funding for the 2023 Program year as follows:

- **\$15,000 to Maslow Project School Based Services**
- **\$11,936 to Options for Helping Residents of Ashland Navigation Services**
- **\$141,235 to Options for Helping Residents of Ashland Commercial Kitchen Project**

DISCUSSION: Councilor Dahle commented on the special services. Councilor Hyatt expressed her appreciation for OHRA and the Maslow Project. She thanked Ms. Reid for her efforts.

Roll Call Vote: Councilor Hansen, Hyatt, Kaplan, Bloom, and Dahle, YES. Motion passed.

XI. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS** - None

XII. **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Acquisition of the Palen Property (Taxlot 391E16-600) for the Open Space Park Program

Parks and Recreation Director Michael Black explained the benefits of purchasing the property. He provided a presentation (see attached):

- **Palen Property Taxlot 391E16-600**
- **Open Space Plan - 2005**
- **Trails Master Plan**

Councilor Bloom asked what would happen to the System Development Charges (SDC) if Council did not move forward at the end of the fiscal year. Deputy City Manager Sabrina Cotta explained the funds would remain in the Parks and Recreation Department for uses such as this.

Councilor DuQuenne asked about the SDC funds, the trail and maintenance. Mr. Black explained how SDC funds were collected. He went on to confirm the Alice in Wonderland trail was one of the oldest and most used trails and served as a collector. Trail maintenance was done through volunteer or contract labor. There was also a trails crew in the Parks and Recreation Department.

Councilor Hyatt asked about the diverse types of use and plans to ensure safety for all modalities. Mr. Black explained there were two trails, one for mountain bikes and one for pedestrians, and discussed making them distinct.

Councilor Hansen/Dahle m/s to approve the proposed acquisition of the Palen Property, Taxlot 391E16 – 600 as described in the staff report and for its dedication as Parks and Open Space program inventory. DISCUSSION: Councilor Hansen noted the property was special and how this purchase would bring in pedestrians, horse riders, and bicyclists. Securing this property was galvanizing a piece of social equity for all Ashland residents and others to enjoy. It would provide economic opportunities to build more trails. Councilor Dahle agreed. He remembered when Alice in Wonderland was the only trail and what had been done was outstanding. In addition to supporting recreational and economic values, equally important was public safety and forest resiliency. Councilor DuQuenne supported the motion because of the economic value it would bring to Ashland. **Roll Call Vote: Councilor Hansen, DuQuenne, Dahle, Kaplan, Bloom, and Hyatt, YES. Motion passed.**

2. Climate Change Addendum to the Ashland Forest Plan

Wildfire Division Chief Chris Chambers and Forest Lands Committee member Luke Brandy explained the effects of climate change currently occurring and what would happen in the future. Climate change had resulted in mass fire. They described the devastating effect. They cited studies and described the devastation of tree species. This destruction prompted the need to add a climate change addendum to the Ashland Forest Plan

Committee member Brandy explained the process the committee used to determine what was relevant to Ashland's forests. The Committee compiled climate science into the Ashland Forest Plan and after it was completed how things changed including the death of old growth trees. It was happening quickly and was severe. They held an open house and incorporated those thoughts into the addendum.

Councilor Kaplan asked about competing objectives taking a higher priority with conflicting issues. Division Chief Chambers explained competing objectives were typical. There were different strategies. They would go through project planning, analyzing conflicting objectives,

fires, and soil. Spatially, they could not achieve multiple objectives but could accomplish some on the landscape. Modeling was another way to help weigh different objectives. He described the monitoring process and commented on the volume of data.

Councilor Kaplan, asked about partnerships already in place and managing those impacts. Division Chief Chambers listed the groups assisting and their roles. One study focused on the impacts of recreation on forest lands. It was better to have recreation dispersed over the landscape, but the type of recreation mattered. There was science behind it as well as impacts of trails in specific areas. Councilor Kaplan asked about self-policing. Division Chief Chambers cited partnerships that enforce trails and prevent people from branching off and making their own trails.

Councilor Dahle asked about public awareness and education. Committee member Brandy explained steps taken and how the pandemic stalled moving forward with those efforts. However, they were bringing back public field trips and had reached out to working or retired professionals to get involved as well.

Councilor Hansen asked if this would help with fundraising and grant writing efforts. Division Chief Chambers thought it would.

Charisse Sydoriak/Ashland/Read from a document submitted into the record (see attached).

Councilor Dahle asked what the timeline was to update the plan. Committee member Brandy explained it was a ten-year plan and hoped to start in 2026.

Mayor Graham asked about council and public participation. Division Chief Chambers explained it was a strategic level document and would not have the detail that the project proposals would have.

Council Kaplan commented on the committee having and noticing public meetings. Division Chief Chambers responded scheduling issues with the meetings were resolved. Regular meetings occurred on the second Tuesday of each month at 5:30 p.m. at Fire Station No. 2.

Councilor Hansen/Bloom m/s approve and make final the Ashland Forest Plan Climate Change. DISCUSSION: Councilor Hansen appreciated the extra steps staff were taking. Councilor Bloom looked forward to working with both of them. Councilor Kaplan commented on the complexity of the matter. **Roll Call Vote: Councilor Kaplan, Dahle, Hansen, DuQuenne Bloom, and Hyatt, YES; Motion passed.**

Council directed staff to meet with council twice a year going forward.

XIII. **ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS AND CONTRACTS**

1. **Second Reading of Ordinance 3220 Amending the City's Food and Beverage Tax to correspond with the City's referendum ballot language for the May 16, 2023, Special Election**

Acting City Attorney Doug McGeary read the changes made to the ordinance during first reading.

Public Testimony

Susan Hall/Ashland/Read from a document submitted into the record (see attached).

Councilor Hansen/Kaplan m/s to approve second reading 3220 that corresponds with the City's Food and Beverage Tax referendum ballot measure for the May 16, 2023, Special Called Election. DISCUSSION: Councilor Hansen liked the idea of a funding source. It would get everyone out to enjoy nature no matter who they were and lessen the burden on the general fund. Councilor Kaplan supported the motion. It was great financial policy for the city. He hoped it passed. Councilor Bloom supported the motion but did not support it being extended to 2040. Councilor DuQuenne did not support the motion. She wanted it to go to the people and listed what the tax could have helped. **Roll Call Vote: Councilor Dahle, Bloom, Hyatt, Hansen, and Kaplan, YES; Councilor DuQuenne, NO. Motion passed 5-1.**

2. **Contract Amendment with RH2 Engineering for the East & West Forks Water Transmission Line Design and Construction Administration**

Public Works Director Scott Fleury provided an overview, explained the amendment and details of the project. They were requesting additional appropriation in the 2024-25 budget. It was unanticipated and due to additional construction administration requirements imposed by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) which had become more stringent based on past issues. Councilor DuQuenne asked if the request was in the budget. Mr. Fleury confirmed it was and part of the capital plan the council accepted and part of the 2023-25 biennium.

Councilor Bloom/Hyatt m/s to approve a professional services contract amendment with RH2 Engineering in the amounts of \$210,515 for the design and construction administration of the East and West Forks Rehabilitation Project. DISCUSSION: Councilor Bloom thanked staff for their diligence. Councilor Hyatt appreciated the background on FERC. It would contribute to maintenance and provide back up in case of algae blooms in the reservoir. Councilor DuQuenne appreciated this was not budgeted prior but thought it should have been budgeted ahead of time. Mayor Graham asked Mr. Fleury to respond. Mr. Fleury Scott explained there was an appropriation that covered the increase in this project and why staff was requesting additional appropriations in 2023-25. Anticipating every nuance FERC might impose would encumber a significant amount money. If they did not use the money, it went back into the water fund. Existing money would go back into construction. No one anticipated FERC being this stringent. **Roll Call Vote: Councilor Kaplan, Hyatt, Dahle, DuQuenne, Hansen, and Bloom, YES. Motion passed.**

XIV. **OTHER BUSINESS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS/REPORTS FROM COUNCIL LIAISONS**

1. City Managers One Year Performance Review

Deputy City Manager Sabrina Cotta provided background the city manager’s review.

Councilor Hyatt/Dahle m/s that the City Manager has successfully met the performance standard as set by City Council and has successfully passed his annual performance review.

DISCUSSION: Councilor Hyatt thanked the city manager for the past year of efforts. Councilor Dahle thanked Mr. Lessard for his professionalism and organization. **Roll Call Vote: Councilor DuQuenne, Kaplan, Hansen, Bloom, Dahle, and Hyatt, YES. Motion passed.**

XV. **ADJOURNMENT OF BUSINESS MEETING**

Councilor Bloom/Hansen/s to adjourn the meeting at 9:24 p.m. Voice Vote: ALL AYES. Motion passed. The meeting adjourned 9:24 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Respectfully Submitted by:

City Recorder Melissa Huhtala

Attest:

Mayor Tonya Graham



**ASHLAND HISTORIC PRESERVATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
CITY COUNCIL UPDATE
April 18, 2023**

Good evening, honorable Mayor and Councilors.

I appreciate the opportunity to address the Council on the work of the Ashland Historic Preservation Advisory Committee or HPAC over the last year. I have served on HPAC for the last five years, and was elected as Chair in the Fall of 2021. I am indebted to the former Chair, Dale Shostrom, whose considerable knowledge and experience in leading the Historic Preservation Advisory Committee over many years has proven to be an invaluable resource. I do not have a background in the building trades, but I do have a lifelong commitment to the preservation of historic buildings and the stories they tell. My aspiration to be able to read architectural blueprints remains largely unfulfilled, but my colleagues on the Historic Preservation Advisory Committee have shown great forbearance with my learning process. I also want to give credit to the exceptional support of the staff from the City Department of Community Development. Regan Trapp is the person the Committee relies on for organizing our monthly meetings, and she does so with remarkable cheerfulness.

As many of you know, the Ashland Historic Preservation Advisory Committee is a nine-member citizen advisory body that reviews planning applications, building permits and sign permits within the city's four historic districts. The Historic Preservation Advisory Committee works with developers and property owners to ensure that both new construction and renovations compliment the four National Register historic districts. In a typical year, before the pandemic, HPAC provided over 300 volunteer hours by holding Committee meetings, as well as advising community members, property owners and design professionals on potential and on-going projects through the Committee's weekly Review Boards.

HPAC resumed in person meetings as of October of 2022, although we continue to offer the option of participation via Zoom. Our Review Board meetings were discontinued with the pandemic as well, but will resume this week. These weekly in-person Review Board meetings, in which at least three members of the Committee review building permits, sign permits and pre-application submittals for properties in the historic districts and also meet with property owners, contractors and designers to provide informal initial design feedback. The Committee is eager to reconvene these Review Boards so that applicants will have the benefit of more timely advice about the specific requirements related to projects in the Historic Districts.

Despite the disruptions in continuing to hold meetings virtually for much of 2022, HPAC was able to fulfill its mandated responsibilities. These accomplishments are listed below:

- As noted, HPAC returned to regular, in person monthly meetings in October of 2022.
- HPAC held it first Committee retreat in January, which we hope will become an annual occurrence. The retreat provided the opportunity to meet in person to discuss the Committee's roles and responsibilities; review an audit report of the city's activities as a Certified Local Government

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prepared by the State Historic Preservation Office; refresh ourselves on the Historic District Development Standards and how to better incorporate them in Committee recommendations to application; consider new ways to promote preservation; look the city's newly adopted goals, visions and values; and receive an update on state legislation which could impact historic preservation in Oregon.

- HPAC reviewed and made recommendations on three land use applications and two pre-applications. Staff reviewed 10 planning applications and 24 building permits in the four National Register Historic Districts.
- HPAC has organized activities for our local Historic Preservation Week, which is being held the week of May 14th this year.
 - The centerpiece of the week is an awards ceremony to honor projects that are the best representation of historic preservation in Ashland for the last year. The awards ceremony will be at 12:30 on Wednesday, May 17th at the Butler Bandshell in Lithia Park.
 - Other events scheduled include two walking tours with local historian and writer Peter Finkle of Walk-Ashland-dot-com and Historic Commissioner Dale Shostrom: the first will be at 1:30 p.m. on May 17th – right after the awards ceremony - and will focus on the downtown.
 - And the second at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday will focus on the Railroad District. Additional information and registration details regarding these walking tours will be on the city website shortly.
 - The Ashland Memorial Mausoleum at the Mountain View Cemetery will also be open for self-guided tours from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Friday, May 19th.
- After almost five years of working in collaboration with the Public Arts Advisory Committee on the “Marking Ashland Places” (MAP) project in the Railroad Historic District, we’ll be unveiling the first of five distinctive bronze medallions in the Railroad Addition historic district. These medallions commemorate significant historic sites in the district, and will be installed in the neighborhood sidewalks. HPAC continues to work with Public Art in considering the next phase of this exciting project.

The Historic Preservation Advisory Committee encourages anyone who is interested in historic preservation to attend our regular meetings, which are held in person – with the option to attend via Zoom - on the first Wednesday of the month, starting at 6:00 p.m.

Thank you for your time.

Beverly Hovenkamp, Historic Preservation Advisory Committee Chair

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Limitations of the State's Executive Order 23-02 Funding

The funding identified through the Governor's Executive Order (E.O. 23-02) in support of addressing a Statewide Homelessness Emergency has two very narrow and specific objectives:

- to increase shelter quality, capacity, and utilization, for Jackson County by creating 67 new shelter beds
- to rapidly rehouse 133 homeless households through placing them in existing rental units

The E.O. has stated that communities have until January 10th to complete these activities, report outcomes, and expend all the funding. There is not guarantee of ongoing operational funding for project or programs initiated under the State funding; ongoing costs will be the responsibility of the implementing entity unless future funding is provided unless the initiated project or program is discontinued.

The First step in the award of local funding process is the issuance of a to be released Request for Proposals (RFP) by the Jackson County Continuum of Care (JCCC). Once proposals are submitted in response to the RFP and reviewed, competitive grants will be awarded by the JCCC. The JCCC has preliminarily identified that local rehousing efforts will utilize the existing model of rental assistance. Contracts with award recipients are not expected to be signed until sometime in May, that gives grantees eight months or less to develop, contract and/or otherwise complete all activities proposed, and expend all funding awarded.

The E.O. is clear that the funding is to provide rapid and reportable outcomes which will be tracked in an online dashboard to show how the funding is benefiting targeted populations and addressing the statewide homelessness emergency.

The Draft contract that was provided to the Multi-Agency Coordination teams set out specific guidelines for how activities will be offered and executed, including:

- All grantees must utilize the coordinated entry system to prioritize and track delivery of services to the most vulnerable households. Utilizing the Coordinated Entry system is a HUD continuum of Care program grant requirement.
- All grantees must report outcomes in the Homelessness Management Information System, (HMIS) which is the statewide database. Data from the HMIS system will be used to track outcomes on the Oregon Housing and Community Services website. Local shelter providers and non-profit service providers presently utilize the HMIS system as part of direct client services.
- All sheltering activities must be low barrier. The State sample contract for this funding defines requirements for low barrier shelters as follows:
 - *Low and no barrier policies allow homeless individuals and households to access shelter, housing, and services without preconditions such as sobriety, compliance with treatment plan, no pets, or agreement to participate in specific programs, activities, or classes. These policies allow those most in need to have access to shelter and housing. These additional emergency shelter beds must be low barrier, focus on assessment and triage, and intentionally link to permanent housing resources that people move through to housing quickly. In order to meet minimum standards as a low barrier shelter the following three conditions must be met:*

- *Sobriety (shelters may establish requirements or limit the use of drugs and alcohol in common or shared areas of the facility. In addition, facilities and treatment are voluntary);*
- *No required documentation of identification, custody, citizenship, or gender. Furthermore, shelters must meet the Department of Housing and Urban Development’s Equal Access Rule, 81 FR 64763, to ensure services are available to all individuals and families regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, or marital status; and*
- *Shelter accommodates pets and belongings.*
- *Furthermore, the following best practices will be key components or indicators of a likely successful low barrier shelter. These practices mirror the learnings from City of Ashland and Medford shelters and*
 - *Shelter has minimal expectations or requirements of people seeking shelter.*
 - *Shelter focuses on addressing disruptive or dangerous behaviors rather than compliance to rules or case plans;*
 - *Shelter welcomes self-defined family and kinship groups to seek shelter together;*
 - *Shelter can identify financials resources that can support the adoption of low barrier policies and practices and supports extended or flexible hours and adapted service-delivery models;*
 - *Shelter accommodates pets and belongings.*
 - *Shelter’s intake process and housing navigation services coordinate closely with community -based outreach services and coordinated entry;*
 - *Shelter creates flexible and predictable access for people seeking shelter;*
 - *No charge to individuals or families for stays, meals, or other services at the low barrier shelter; and*
 - *Shelter does not exclude people with criminal convictions, poor credit, or eviction histories.*
- *Funded activities must be Housing Focused: “Activities conducted under this agreement may not screen participants out solely on the basis of certain behavioral psychological, physiological, citizenship or immigration status or economic preconditions. Services must ensure that the safety and support of both staff and clients are paramount. This is accomplished through a focus on ensuring safety by managing behaviors that pose a risk to health and safety rather than implementing blanket exclusions based on past diagnosis or current behavioral health symptoms that do not pose a direct risk to community safety. Recipient must actively coordinate services and supports for helping people exhibit homelessness and make efforts to reduce barriers to re-housing individuals and families in their community.”*
- *Habitability Requirements: Shelters, whether congregate or non-congregate, must meet habitability requirements that include minimum safety, sanitation, and privacy standards as outlined in 24 CFT 576.403, regardless of whether 24 CFR 576.403 independently applies to such shelters apart from this agreement.*

Shelters must be structurally sound. Tents and other structures without hardened surfaces that do not meet these minimum standards are unallowable. Recipient must document habitability requirements for all shelters funded under this agreement. Shelter units may be in the form of Non-congregate Free-Standing Units if they provide the following amenities.

- *Heat*
- *Electircity*
- *The ability to close and lock a door*
- *Showers and restrooms onsite*
- *Hard-surface walls and roofing*
- *Food preparation facilities available onsite or with an action plan to provide meals to shelter residents.*

Should the City Council authorize staff to respond to an RFP, it should be kept in mind that the City will be competing against other applicants for the portion of the funding dedicated to address the creation of shelter beds which expected to be approximately \$4Million. Of the \$8.8 Million allocated to Jackson County Continuum of Care approximately \$4Million will be restricted to rapid rehousing efforts.

There are three other potential applicants for this funding of which the City staff are aware. The City of Medford will be proposing a project which has the potential to create all 67 shelter beds needed to meet the stated goal, and this a campground project is well into the processes of planning and execution in having already acquired the property and planning approvals. The City of Medford will be applying to install the infrastructure to place the required amenities and pallet shelter like structures, as well as the operational costs for the 8-month period that the grant funds are available. The other potential applicant of which we aware is likely to be the Set Free Christian Fellowship proposal to provide emergency shelter through a tiny house/camping project. Rogue Retreat is also likely to seek funding to rehabilitate their project turnkey project to provide new shelter beds.

If the City of Ashland does not put forward an application which addresses the stated goal to provide shelter beds or would not be ready to proceed and implement in short order, then Ashland would most likely not be competitive through the Request for Proposal Process.

Considerations for a City Sanctioned Activity

According to the 9th Circuit Court ruling, the location of a facility must provide a reasonable alternative to use of public space for homeless occupancy. To meet this test, a facility's location should not place an undue burden on residents and must be within a reasonable distance to access needed amenities including transit, grocery stores, or other resources needed by the homeless. Generally, facility locations should be evaluated based on access to such amenities, generally looking for locations to be within a reasonable walking distance to retail and/or public transit.

Addressing issues of public sleeping, and other City responses to addressing the impacts of homelessness on communities is a legally unsettled area, and the City is trying to avoid any invitation for litigation.

Site Management Considerations

The 9th Circuit Court also invokes a principle called the Created Danger principal, which may be applied to managed camps created by Municipalities and which preferences the establishment of camps with oversight to allow for protections for both staff and residents by not exposing a person to dangerous situations that they may not otherwise have been exposed to if not for the actions of the municipality.

City staff has been informed by non-profit service providers that there are presently three distinct groups of unhoused individuals currently residing in the community

- The working poor, who just need a place safe place to stay.
- People who have addiction issues but are generally functional and able to get along with others and manage behaviors.
- People who experience severe persistent mental illness (SPMI) and/or drug addiction, also known as dual diagnosis. This population displays the most severe and disruptive behaviors which can make it difficult for them to reside or interact in close proximity with others.

While the first two populations could probably experience successful outcomes with limited support or intervention, the SPMI population would need direct oversight to address behaviors that could be negatively impactful to individuals, the group as a whole, or compromise the safety and stability of the location. It would be discriminatory to screen out those with severe mental health issues for an inclusive facility, consequently any proposed activity for a low barrier shelter must provide behavioral oversight and maintain overall safety. We know from experience, that running a managed shelter/camp site accommodating approximately 40-50 people, in compliance with the low-barrier shelter objectives costs around 40K a month.



**CRIS
AYSON**
Finance Manager



**HANNAH
BORGESON**
Community
Engagement Specialist



DENISE BROWN
Housing Case
Manager



**KRISTIN
CRONIN**
Phoenix-Talent
Case Manager



**BLANCA
DURAN**
Bilingual
Case Manager



**ALFONSO
FERNANDEZ**
Outreach Advocate



**MARY
FERRELL**
Executive Director



**MARILEE
FORD BARRERA**
Operations
Manager



**NICOLE
HOEFFINGER**
Medford Case
Manager



**LAURA
LESKIN**
Office Manager



**CHEYENNE
NICHOLS**
Program
Supervisor



**MATT
NORTHROP**
Program Supervisor
& Case Manager



**NICOLE
RITTERBUSH**
Advocate Team
Lead



**CORRIE
SOMMERFELD**
Development
Director



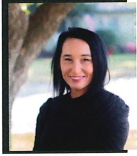
**FALLON
STEWART**
Program Officer



**BRANDY
STROMME**
Grants Pass Team
Lead Case Manager



**CINDY
TILLY**
Grants Pass
Case Manager



**TINA
WEBB**
Team Lead Case
Manager



**JARED
WOLFF**
Case Manager
Josephine County

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jamie L. Hazlett, Board Chair • Lisa Morris, Vice Chair • Amy Zarusinski, Treasurer • Sharilyn Cano, Secretary
Scott Clauson • Eric Maxwell • Gina DuQuenne



MASLOW PROJECT



Stabilize. Engage. Thrive

2021-2022
ANNUAL REPORT

PH CDBG - Maslow
04.16.23

Mary's Message



Dear Friends,

Imagine a southern Oregon where all children and teens have some place safe and warm to sleep, enough food to eat, and the resources and resilience they need to succeed in school and in life. Thanks to the persistent encouragement, generosity, and hearts of our supporters, Maslow Project has moved that vision closer to reality over the last 15 years. With impactful programs, dedicated and skilled staff, and the flexible resources needed to continually lift our youth up in an ever-changing world, we are seeing kids thrive and remain hopeful. In 2022, that is an accomplishment, and our amazing community makes this possible.

Maslow Project is an essential lifeline for the most vulnerable youth in our community. We continuously evaluate, learn, and improve upon the work in our two southern Oregon counties. Our programs are increasing high school completion, college enrollment, and attaining and retaining employment and housing. Our approach is holistic and highly individualized to create

an inclusive environment of support and resources needed to nurture growth, resiliency, and hope.

A bright side of this pandemic has been our community's recognition of the growing needs and continued funding to help families with emergency shelter, eviction prevention, attaining new housing and so much more. Over the past two years, Maslow Project has distributed back out to our clients almost \$2 million in resources and helped more than 227 families obtain housing. With rental costs climbing and affordable housing still a scarcity, we will see on-going need for our programs and services to provide stability and intensive services for our youth and families. The information in the report speaks to the generosity of our community.

More is possible within our organization. It is a belief that burns bright within our entire organization. The contents of this annual report tell a dual story of our work and aspirations for creating the conditions for change. With the opening of our expanded Food Pantry we are looking at the future of how we can respond to the increasing needs

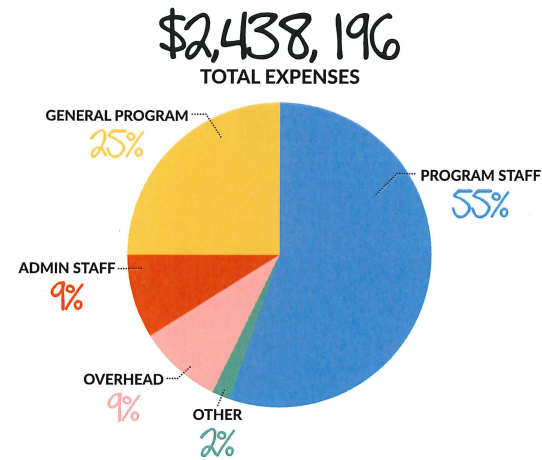
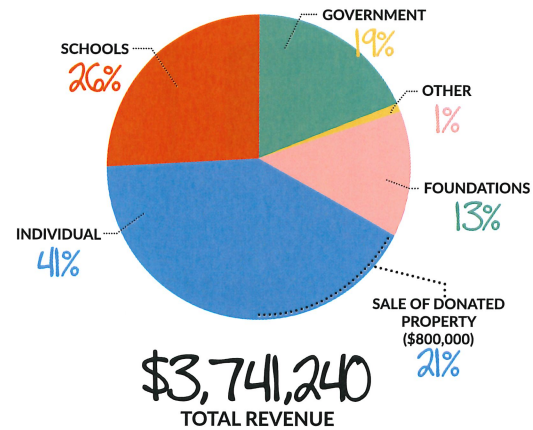
of youth and families experiencing homelessness in Southern Oregon where the costs of food are rising along with gas and housing.

We will continue to invest in highly effective ways to help more families find their way to safe, stable housing, and walk alongside them in their journey. Thank you for trusting us with your hard-earned funds and supporting the work made possible because of you. Your trust in us is of the utmost importance. We strive to be transparent, show integrity, and be good stewards of resources that are given in kindness and generosity.

Adversity has brought us closer together and shown us innovative ways to meet the urgent needs in our community. Thank you for standing beside us!

Financial Stability

Platinum
Transparency
2022
Candid.



Maslow's diverse revenue stream supports a sustainable funding model. Our varied funding base minimizes dependence on any single source of income making any program less vulnerable to funding cuts. Sources include foundations, public school contracts, government contracts, and philanthropic giving.

We are a NO FEE FOR SERVICES organization – always free to our youth and families!

In order to continue the level of service provided over the past year we look to continue to strengthen our individual giving. We've added administrative capacity to address the increase in funding that passes through Maslow Project. We work hard to keep overhead low for maximum resources for program support.

The housing crisis that is prevalent in Southern Oregon and throughout a majority of Oregon continues to plague our work with children and families experiencing homelessness. While housing availability hovered around 1% we were able to permanently house 143 clients. This stabilization allows for those families with children to move out of crisis and to start focusing on school, employment, and mental/health issues.

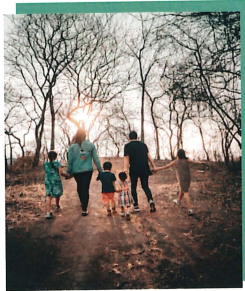
A Home Is More

THAN A ROOF OVERHEAD

Through our partnerships with the Housing Authority of Jackson County families were able to make long-term progress after experiencing homelessness. Currently, there are 42 families in Maslow's permanent supportive housing, to ensure families remain successfully housed. A roof overhead does not solve all of the trauma, crisis, and obstacles that families may face. Ongoing support is needed for families to continue to progress in goals related to education, employment, life skills, parenting, and mental/health needs.

Our families have been successful, 41/42 families remain housed. Over the next year we will continue to build this programming, to help end youth homelessness.

127 individuals received shelter assistance- including hotel stays
63 individuals received financial deposit and application assistance



Community & Volunteers

COMMUNITY

We are grateful for the wonderful people that make our work possible. Our region is very much distressed with housing costs. The availability of affordable rentals is grim. We are appreciative of all the help we get from the community. Last year over 700 individuals donated as well as 150 businesses, organizations, and civic groups. Continued support ensures teens, kids, and families receive the services they need. The kindness and generosity shown is an inspiration to all of us.



VOLUNTEERS

Groups and individuals contribute in a variety of ways to our efforts throughout southern Oregon. We have groups packing back packs full of school supplies. Individuals putting snack packs together at the Resource Center. Many helping with events and coordinating hygiene drives. Our wonderful group of ambassadors meet with us monthly to work on special projects. We couldn't do this work without all of the help we receive.

Youth Centered Approach



Your support allows Maslow to operate with a Youth Centered Approach. Meeting youth where they are is imperative in our work. Using a multi-lane approach to stabilize youth and provide individualized support improves educational outcomes. Using a strength based approach to help improve self-esteem and foster resiliency, while holding expectations for meeting personal goals. We are in their lives for the long run so they can gain stability, engage in school and/or work and transition into adulthood.



Where Are They Now

Justice
M A S L O W
HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE

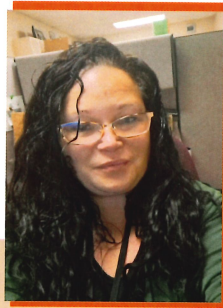


Justice has come full circle. From an unhoused youth to working in a Transitional Living Program in Benton County. This has been a life changing experience for Justice. Justice is a former Maslow student and graduated years ago from Phoenix High School. She moved north to complete her bachelor's degree at Oregon State University. Throughout college she worked part-time jobs, volunteered, helped support her younger brother, competed in Miss Oregon pageant, and was a full-time student.

In July she completed her Bio Health Science degree. She is taking a year off to think if medical school is the right path for her. Currently, she is working three part-time jobs, saving money, and focusing on the next step in her life journey. She is passionate about so many things, serving and giving back to others is at the top of her list.

We are happy to be a part of this young lady's life. We'll continue to watch with awe and wonder at her positive force and energy in this world. *"Maslow helped me experience things all teens should have the opportunity to"*

Liz
PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING CLIENT



The cycle of crisis and trauma is a hard cycle to escape from. We are sharing the story of Liz, a Permanent Supportive Housing client. Liz was absent from her children often because of lack of housing. Her sons couch surfed and lived with their dad until his arrest.

She and her children have come along way. Liz went from walking in the rain three years ago pulling a suitcase to thriving. That day she met her case manager to apply for Permanent Supportive Housing. This opportunity was made possible by the Housing Authority of Jackson County. This has changed the trajectory of their lives.

A home provides stability. Having the most basic of needs met is fabulous, the answer to all prayers, but it isn't without challenges. Feelings of being undeserving and out of control still crept in for Liz. Losing control of life, being homeless, scared, and eroded her confidence. Trauma from the experience of homelessness was very evident in her children. The distrust was something her boys talked about with Maslow's Counselor.

Having ongoing and supportive case management has been essential to the family. She tried to find a job. After months of hearing nothing she felt defeated. With no clear plan, Case Manger Denise helped her put all the pieces together and helped focus on a plan. She had completed a clerical training program that provided an opportunity. Over the past two years she has been able to build skills and move up to different positions. We are happy to report that she has accepted a full-time position with the Department of Human Services.

Liz and her children are thriving now. Her boys are in the band, playing instruments and are happy. Liz credits Maslow, stating, *"she couldn't have done this without the support of Maslow Project."*

School Based Programs



Working in many of the local public schools allows for students to have direct access to help by Maslow staff. We work to uphold student rights and protections under the federal law, U.S. McKinney Vento Act, ensuring equal access to education. For many students, multiple barriers contribute to challenges enrolling, attending, and progressing in their education. Having a school based social/emotional support and connection is key to providing a safe space for youth experiencing homelessness.

Maslow Case Managers work to provide homework help, access to technology, school supplies, and remove barriers to transportation. Staff also connect students to activities such as sports, clubs, music, and other activities. This helps develop strengths and interests. By working with students to set short and long term goals related to education, employment, and housing they are building life skills, promoting self-sufficiency, and working toward completing their education.

WHEN WE WORK TOGETHER

A high school teacher informed a Maslow case manager that she had an unaccompanied student. The teacher had explained Maslow services to her student Joe but he stated he didn't need help. Youth often don't readily admit they need help. We made sure to follow up, say hello, and introduce our services.

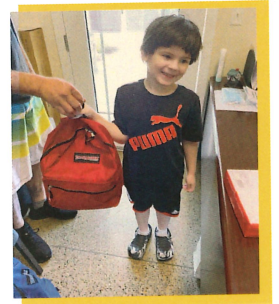
The more the case manager and Joe talked, it became clear he very much needed help. Joe needed food, hygiene, school clothing, and supplies. Food is often a resource unaccompanied youth need most. Our case manager suggested applying for SNAP (food stamps assistance), and Joe was convinced that he wouldn't qualify. With a little help, he was able to qualify for the benefits he needed in order to maintain good nutrition and health.

This was the beginning of a wonderful working relationship with Joe and his case manager! Joe graduated and has started his freshmen year in college this fall.

Maslow By The Numbers

The Medford School District had the second highest number of homeless youth in the state of Oregon last year. Josephine County school districts ranked 10th and 13th. It is hard to focus on school when children's needs of shelter, food, clothing, and hygiene are not being met. These experiences threatens their safety, personal well-being, education, and health outcomes.

McKinney Vento Youth Homelessness, "lacking a fixed, regular, adequate night-time residence" is underfunded and dramatically undercounted around the nation. This causes a vast disparity in access to help, housing, and education. Nationwide, this number is estimated to be 1.5 million (School House Connection 2021).



FROM THE PROGRAM YEAR 2021-2022

2,437 total children, teens, and parents served

1,892 served in Jackson County

537 served in Josephine County

131 unaccompanied minors (without parent or guardian)

307 unsheltered (living in a car, camping, etc.)

AGES OF YOUTH SERVED

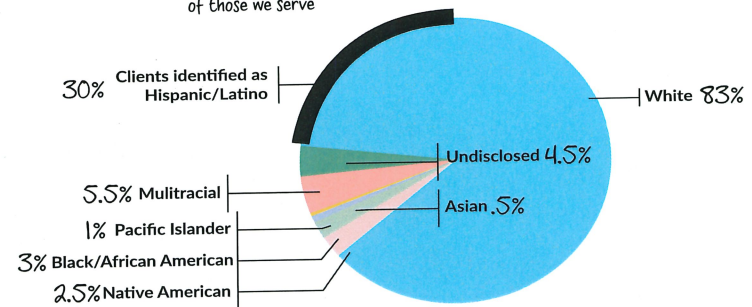
0-5 years old 268

6-18 years old 1054

19-24 years old 288



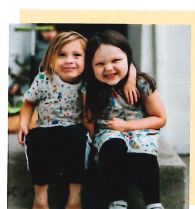
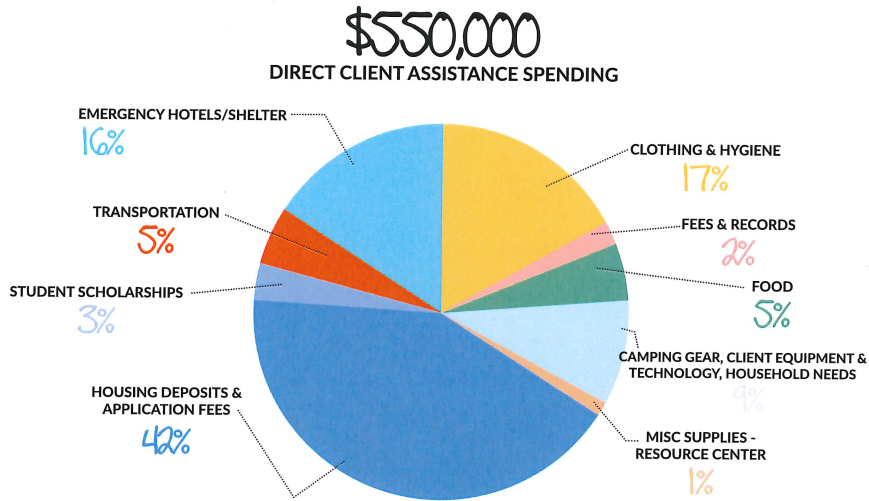
RACE & ETHNICITY of those we serve



Stabilization

TAKING CARE OF VULNERABLE YOUTH AND FAMILIES

Addressing people's most basic of needs is of the utmost importance. Our community of donors, funders, businesses, and civic groups help provide hot meals, food boxes, clothing, hygiene supplies, baby supplies, and wide variety of other emergency assistance. The flexibility of unrestricted donations gives further ability to meet the individual and changing needs of those we serve. When people aren't worried about daily survival, they can more easily focus on higher level goals like education and employment.



Outreach Centers

Through individual, state, municipal, private foundations, and federal support we are able to provide outreach. Outreach is an important component of identifying and connecting youth and families that are experiencing homelessness to help and provide resources of food, water, hygiene, camping, and other necessary items. A multi-faceted approach helps to meet families and youth where they are at. We are located in schools, visit parks, libraries, stores, and partner agencies throughout cities in southern Oregon. Starting with building trust and connection we are able to provide a lifeline of hope and surround them with services and resources to work on individualized goals.



- Monroe Resource Center-500 Monroe Medford
- Cobblestone Village- Operations & Administration Riverside Medford
- La Clinica- Phoenix/Talent
- UCAN Facility- Grants Pass
- DHS Office- Cave Junction
- Six School Districts Across Josephine and Jackson County

Having a connecting hub in communities provides access to services, resources, and support five days a week with our centers. The Monroe Resource Center in Medford underwent many needed upgrades and are able to safely invite our youth and families in to pick up mail, meet with staff, access hygiene items, and food boxes. Thanks to generous support from our wonderful donors, we were able to expand our food pantry to twice the size and now able to provide more options for fresh meat, dairy, vegetables, and fruits.



Palen Property

Taxlot 391E16 – 600

20.12 Acres

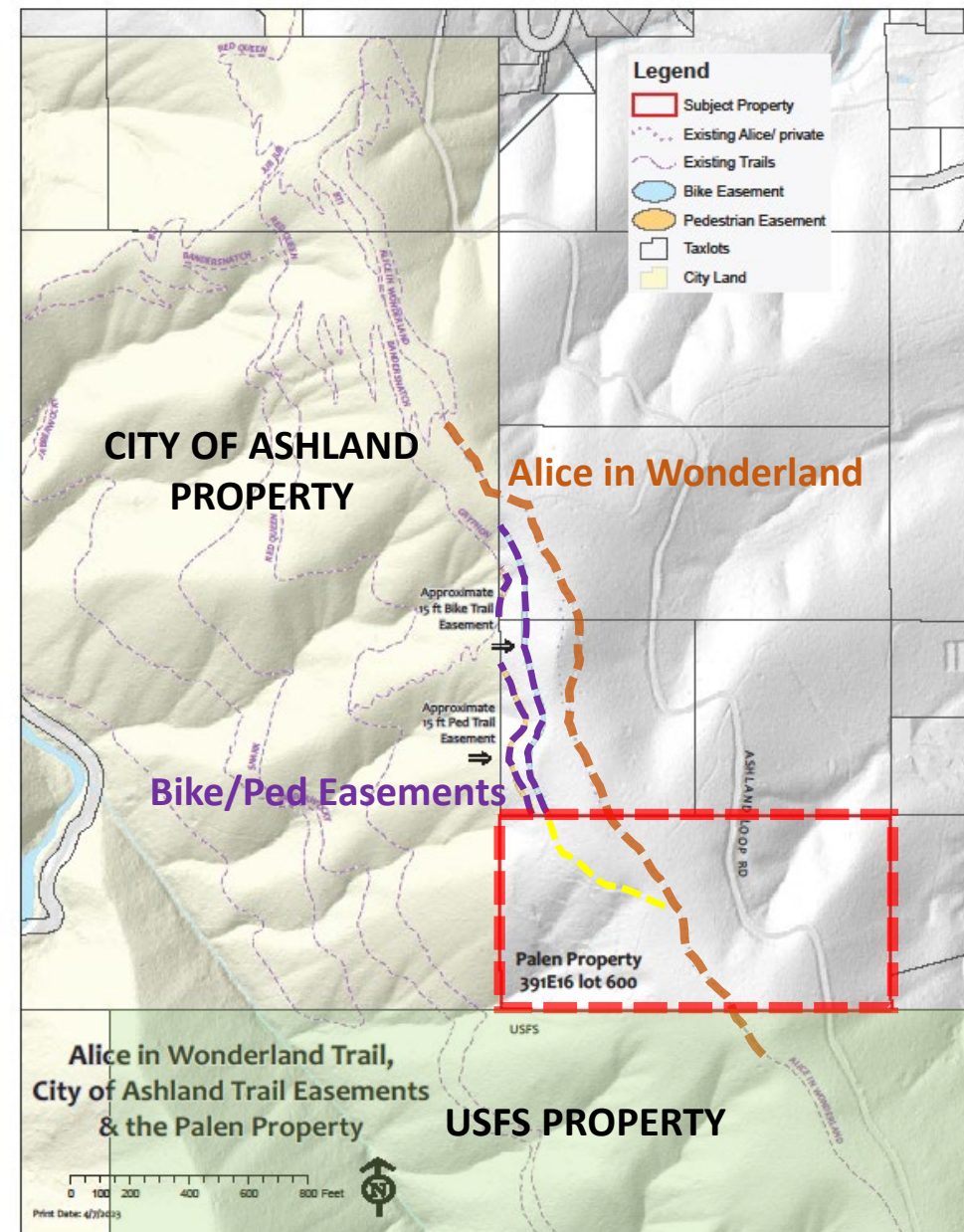
- Alice in Wonderland Trail
- Connection to existing bike/ped easements
- Guaranteed perpetual access
- Control over fire fuels and fuels reeducation

RECOMMEND PURCHASE OF PROPERTY AT
AGREED UPON PRICE: \$150,000

Source: Parks SDCs

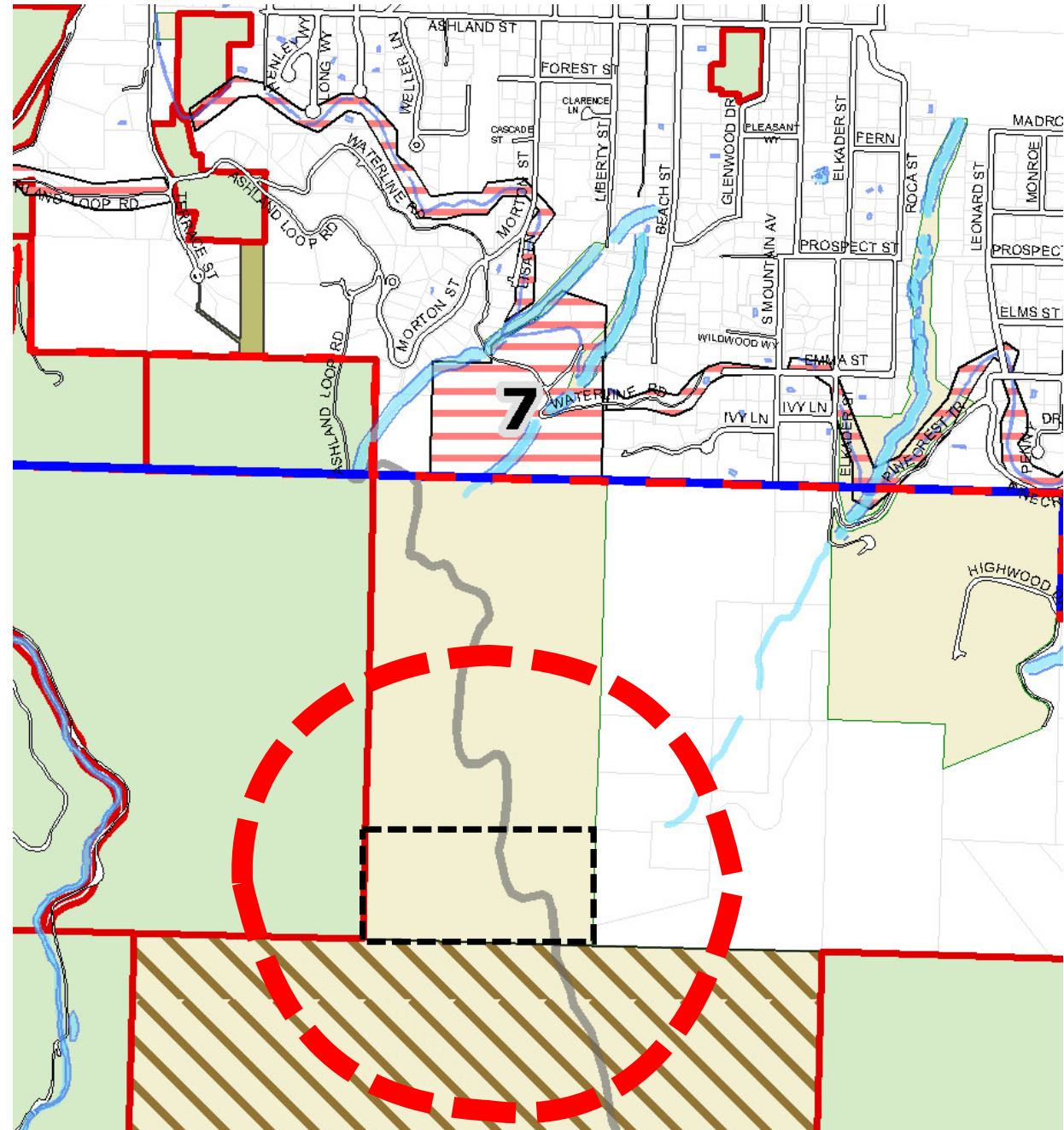
PROPERTY DEDICATED AS OPEN SPACE and PARK
PROGRAM INVENTORY

Parks Commissioners have already
approved the acquisition



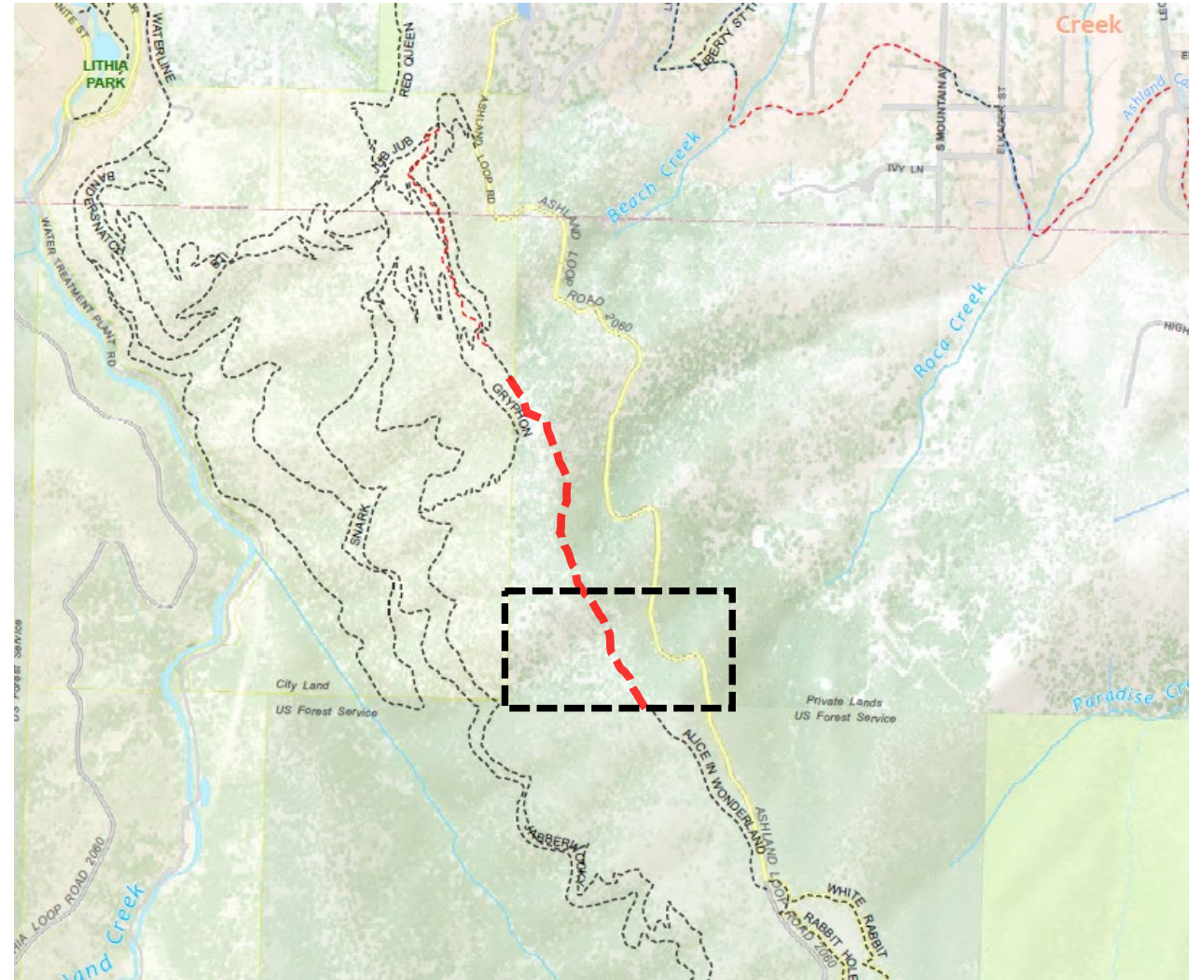
OPEN SPACE PLAN - 2005

Land Identified for
purchase for trail and
open space



Trails Master Plan

- Ch. 16; Eastside Forestland Trails
 - Palen Property Bridges the Gap for Alice in Wonderland
- Recommend Approval of the acquisition of the Palen Property as described in the staff report and for its dedication as Parks and Open Space program inventory.



From: [REDACTED]
To: [Public Testimony](#)
Cc: [Chad Woodward](#); [Bob Kaplan](#); [REDACTED]
Subject: Public Testimony - Ashland City Council (4/18/2023)
Date: Friday, April 14, 2023 8:49:43 PM

[EXTERNAL SENDER]

Climate Change Adaption - Ashland Forest Plan

Mayor Graham and Council,

I provided the following comments, on 9/27/2023, regarding an earlier draft of the Addendum:

“While the current draft of the Climate Change Addendum addresses strategies to prepare for and become more resilient to climate change, it does not address how the AFP will achieve carbon neutrality by 2030. In order to address the later the AFP Addendum should include, at a minimum, the following:

- Quantification of GHG emissions from forest practices including climate impacts directly related to carbon black. (NOTE to editor: please include a definition of carbon black and its impact on climate and human health).
- Identification of GHG emission offsets for AFP land management activities that could serve to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030.”

The updated draft does not provide this information. Instead it includes the following statement in an apparent response to my original comment.

“Though the Ashland Climate Energy Action Plan calls for carbon neutrality, we recognize that this may not be possible on City forestlands, where goals of community wildfire safety and maintaining forested ecosystems intact are higher priorities.”

It is critical that the Climate Change Addendum quantify AFP greenhouse gas emissions and the extent of carbon sequestration. These details are needed to understand the extent of additional emission reductions that the city must achieve, or off-sets it must implement to achieve the CEAP’s goals.

Thanks you,
Gary Shaff
[REDACTED]

Climate Change - Charisse Sydorak
Addendum AFP
4/18/23

April 18, 2023

To: Ashland City Council and City Manager

Subject: Proposed Climate Change Addendum to the Ashland Forest Plan

From: Southern Oregon Climate-Smart Working Group (SOCS)

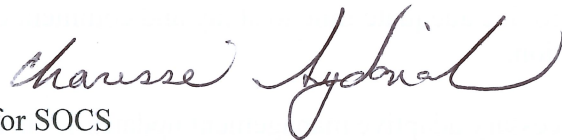
I am a resident of Ashland and I represent the Southern Oregon Climate-Smart Working Group (SOCS). SOCS reviewed the draft addendum and provided comments on November 12, 2022. Since many of our comments were not clearly addressed in the proposed Addendum we are resubmitting comments for Council consideration and adding a question about the relationship to the Climate and Energy Action Plan (CEAP).

- 1) The proposed addendum provides no specifics on when, where, why, or how the proposed “adaptative management” activities will take place. A “shopping list” of *strategic* intentions over a 25-year period is hard to envisage. Which items on the list have a higher priority for action and why? A timeline and framework for action is critical to enable public engagement as the projects are developed and implemented.
- 2) Where are fire and other types of “refugia” on the City’s forested lands? The decision to define some management areas as “refugia” should be explained and scientifically justified. May we assume that this will be accomplished in an updated Forest Plan? If so, when can we expect the update?
- 3) Provide maps and other graphics to show areas of concern for each resource management objective. After nearly two decades of active management, it would be useful to understand which objectives are not likely to be met because of climatic change, and to see where the problems areas are located. (Unfortunately, the “Ashland Forest Plan Map Package” link posted on the City website does not work.) Please make this information publicly accessible and provide adequate time to study and comment on the information before taking decisive action.
- 4) The final example of “necessary adaptive management updates...” is coordinating with various entities including the USFS. Since climate change adaptation options are limited on the ~1,200 acres of City owned forest lands, this is a critical need. We encourage the City to move forward with coordinated action as soon as practical.
- 5) While a significant amount of public engagement occurred nearly 20 years ago, the demographics of the City have likely shifted. It might be imprudent to assume that tree removal is widely supported as the best option especially since harvesting of green trees is being considered as a preventative management action. The recent thinning project on private forest lands adjacent to City managed forest lands has generated a lot of public concern and interest. We suggest that a comprehensive public education strategy be developed along with more diverse opportunities for input before significant tree removal is undertaken.

- 6) The relationship between the Ashland CEAP and 2016 Forest Plan goals and objectives is not clear. Is the CEAP natural resources strategy: “NS-1-1. Manage forests to retain biodiversity, resilience, and ecosystem function and services in the face of climate change” the only connected action? If not, what are the connected actions and how will they be coordinated? What about the following strategies listed in the CEAP:
- NS-1-2. Use green infrastructure such as bioswales, permeable pavement, other pervious surfaces to reduce flood risk and minimize sediment entry into creeks from trails and roads.
 - NS-1-3. Undertake restoration efforts to retain and restore native fish and riparian species.
 - NS-1-4. Map and protect areas that provide ecosystem services.
- 7) We applaud the authors for recognizing that “the restoration paradigm that guided previous forest planning and management” is no longer realistic, and that a strategy that uses “new science and technology to effectively address climate change-induced forest land conditions” is necessary. Instead of alluding to using this “new science and technology for adaptive management,” it would be more appropriate to demonstrate how it works and the associated assumptions and implications. The “climate smart”¹ adaptation approach is one of several involving critical review of goals and tactics at a suitable scale to assess and prepare for uncertain future conditions. It involves scenario planning, deliberate experimentation, and ideally incorporates assessment of the carbon flux impacts with efforts to minimize emissions. We recommend that the proposed Addendum be revised to contain more detail about how the “necessary adaptive management updates in planning and management actions” will be actualized.

In closing, I would like to suggest that Council consider posting all management advisory committee meeting times and dates on the City Calendar. Since decommissioning I have been unable to find out when and where the Forest Lands Committee meets each month. I attempted to go to a “regularly” scheduled session in January but there was no one there.

Respectfully,



Charisse Sydoriak for SOCS

¹ Glick, P., B.A. Stein, and K.R. Hall. 2021. Toward a Shared Understanding of Climate-Smart Restoration on America’s National Forests: A Science Review and Synthesis. Washington, DC: National Wildlife Federation. <https://www.nwf.org/ClimateSmartRestoration>

Stein, B.A., P. Glick, N. Edelson, and A. Staudt (eds.) (2014). Climate-Smart Conservation: Putting Adaptation Principles into Practice. National Wildlife Federation, Washington, D.C.

<https://www.nwf.org/ClimateSmartGuide>

Swanston, Christopher W.; Janowiak, Maria K.; Brandt, Leslie A.; Butler, Patricia R.; Handler, Stephen D.; Shannon, P. Danielle; Derby Lewis, Abigail; Hall, Kimberly; Fahey, Robert T.; Scott, Lydia; Kerber, Angela; Miesbauer, Jason W.; Darling, Lindsay; Parker, Linda; St. Pierre, Matt. 2016. Forest Adaptation Resources: climate change tools and approaches for land managers, 2nd ed. Gen. Tech. Rep. NRS-GTR-87-2. Newtown Square, PA: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Northern Research Station. 161 p. <http://dx.doi.org/10.2737/NRS-GTR-87-2>

CD 06 Susan Hall
FOR the Record
Thx.

4/18/23

Attention: Ashland City Council

I request this testimony be entered into the Minutes of this meeting on the record.

Susan Hall RN
Ashland

I am here tonight to oppose the second reading of this F&B tax ordinance & I oppose the Food & Beverage tax Measure 15-214 on the May 16 ballot. This Measure extends the F&B tax an additional 10 years to 2040. This 10 year extension request from Parks was hand carried into Council by Councilor Hansen on February 7, 2023. With Council's 5:1 passage of Councilor Hansen's motion it was clear that every one of you, except Councilor DuQuenne, have failed to grasp the serious potential consequences of this extension. Not only is it wrong to burden Ashland residents with 17 years of the F&B tax at this time, the potential for future crippling debt to the City and taxpayers will exist if Measure 15-214 were to pass.

I summarized this in my Letter to the Editor of the RV-Times. This is my LTE:

4/13/23

RV-Times Titled it:

"Measure would be a "pot of gold" for Ashland Parks"

MORE DEBT?

BIG BUCKS! That's what 17 years of a "dedicated revenue stream" from 98% of the Food & Beverage Tax (FBT) would give Ashland Parks and Rec. (APRC) if Measure 15-214 passes on May 16, 2023. Proponents of 15-214 avoid disclosing the new 2040 end date.

Why? 3 reasons:

- 15-214 obligates voters to pay FBT for 17 years (not 7).
- 15-214 establishes a guaranteed revenue source from 98% of the FBT for 17 years.
- This guaranteed revenue yields approximately \$3Million the first year and using a 4% annual escalation, approximately \$24 Million by 2030, and approximately \$75 Million by 2040.

This Pot of Gold has the potential to become collateral for APRC to sell revenue bonds to investors for whatever projects Parks wants. With approval of a revenue bond sale by City Council, the City & taxpayers would be in DEBT until the principle and interest are repaid.

I urge Council to recognize the potential debt Ashland residents, their children and their grandchildren could be left with to pay. Do not pass the second reading of this ordinance and reject Measure 15-214.

Thank you

Susan Hall RN
Ashland
4/18/23

Susan R. Hall RN