



# Council Business Meeting

December 5, 2023

<b>Agenda Item</b>	Shelter Goals	
<b>From</b>	Tonya Graham	Mayor
<b>Contact</b>	Tonya.graham@ashland.or.us	
<b>Item Type</b>	Requested by Council <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Update <input type="checkbox"/> Request for Direction <input type="checkbox"/> Presentation <input type="checkbox"/> Consent <input type="checkbox"/> Public Hearing <input type="checkbox"/> New Business <input type="checkbox"/> Old Business <input type="checkbox"/>	

## SUMMARY

Mayor Graham has integrated input from the first Council discussion and the neighborhood group into this list of proposed goals for the facility at 2200 Ashland Street and the surrounding neighborhood. By having clear goals, the City and community will be able to identify next steps for a variety of issues, develop a master plan for the facility and site, and effectively assess progress over time.

Through the establishment of these goals, and taking meaningful steps toward meeting them, the City will ensure that the facility is a good neighbor and a benefit to this neighborhood, which has seen escalating challenges linked to homelessness over the past few years. The geographic boundaries of the section of town these goals refer to will need to be further refined, but it is generally referred to as “south Ashland” and includes Ashland Street between the Ashland Hills Inn and the intersection with Siskiyou Boulevard and East Main Street to Siskiyou Blvd.

### **Proposed Goals:**

- Provide immediate safety for Ashland residents who are experiencing homelessness
- Reduce and maintain reduced levels of the garbage and litter found on neighborhood streets, around businesses, in Clay Street Park, and along the bike path and train tracks
- Provide a pathway to long-term housing for Ashland residents who are experiencing homelessness
- Improve the sense of safety in the neighborhood, especially along the bike path under the overpass and at Siskiyou School
- Support the dignity of Ashland residents who are experiencing homelessness by providing for their basic needs on a temporary basis so that they can transition to more





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permanent housing

- Reduce the risk of wildfire in the neighborhood caused by cigarette smoking and illegal cooking
- Provide a means by which Ashland residents who are experiencing homelessness can contribute back to the community as they are receiving services at the facility
- Invest in ensuring that the rate of certain crimes (household theft, trespassing, drug dealing etc.) as well as drug and alcohol use and overdoses, is no higher in this section of town than in the rest of Ashland
- Support economic development and public art efforts that build, energize, and beautify south Ashland, which welcomes visitors as a gateway to the city.

## **Next Steps the neighborhood is asking Council to consider:**

- Create a regular system for the city to reduce and remove: garbage, litter, biohazard waste, drug paraphernalia, furniture and discarded items, human waste, or any other public safety hazards on neighborhood streets, around businesses, in Clay Street Park, and along the bike path and train tracks, and throughout south Ashland.
- Provide safety in South Ashland, especially along the bike path under the overpass and at Siskiyou School but also throughout the entirety of south Ashland through strong policy, ordinances and empowering law enforcement.
- Provide education to businesses and property owners about ordinances and trespass processes.

## **REFERENCES & ATTACHMENTS**

Memo: Shelter Items Follow-up

**Memo**

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TO: Mayor & City Council  
FROM: Sabrina Cotta, Acting City Manager  
DATE: December 5, 2023

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**RE: Shelter Items Follow-up**

There has been a request to address several additional items related to the shelter at 2200 Ashland Street. Currently there is \$32,000 left this fiscal year to address needs around the unhoused.

Lighting

Request: Lighting on the overpass to illuminate the bike path that travels beneath the Ashland Street bridge.

Timing: Action requested by end of November.

Action: The City has a request into ODOT about placing lighting on the bridge as ODOT owns the bridge. Several items are under consideration:

- The availability of electricity to illuminate and the cost to run conduit to the bridge.
- Placement of lighting- on the bridge versus grounded.

Next steps: After confirmation from ODOT on options for lighting placement. Staff will place the appropriate lighting to illuminate the underpass.

Lighting: bike path

Request: Lighting on the bike path placed to not shine in windows.

Timing: Action requested by end of November.

Action: None. There is currently no budget to address size project. Uncertainty about scope as bike path is several miles long.

Next Steps: Council can request staff come back with a scoped project to include removal of a current CIP project to do this project instead, cost estimate, and budget supplemental.

Fencing

Request: Ensure gaps along the bike path fence are sealed and replace the wooden section of fence with chain link.

Timing: Action requested by end of November.

**ADMINISTRATION**

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Action: Facilities will work to get a bid to close chain link gaps as well as fence from the shelter fence to the bridge. This portion of fencing will require permission from ODOT as ODOT right away.

Next Steps: Department identification and project execution.

APD Presence

Request: Increased APD presence in the area of 2200 Ashland Street and surrounding areas.

Timing: ASAP

Action: APD has increased presence and is currently working on an office in the Albertson's shopping center (Suds ur duds site).

Next steps: Continue with current action.

Relocation of Shower Trailer:

Request: Move the shower trailer to the other side of the building (Ashland Street side)

Timing: ASAP

Action: None. Due to the location of utilities this cannot be relocated. The City is legally, per stipulation of the grant being used to fund the shelter, to provide showers.

Next steps: None

Relocation of porta potties:

Request: Relocate the porta potties to the Ashland Street side of the shelter facility.

Timing: ASAP

Action: None. Due to ADA requirements and Fire response egress needs these items cannot be relocated at this time.

Screening of Porta potties:

Request: Better screening for shower trailer and porta potties.

Timing: ASAP

Action: After a meeting with the neighborhood coalition representatives an understanding was reached that permanent screening of facilities will be done once a final site plan is in place and future use of the building is decided.

Neighborhood Clean-up

Request: Utilize Parks and Recreation Volunteer Coordinator and Resources to initiate a volunteer clean-up effort in the area surrounding the 24/7 shelter.

Timing: December

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**ADMINISTRATION**

Sabrina Cotta, Acting City Manager

Action: Parks & Recreation will make their clean-up supplies and waivers available in December as well as spread the word through their established volunteer groups. The Mayor will coordinate the effort from there for volunteers. Public Works and the City Manager's Office can coordinate the pick-up of the debris/trash.

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