

November 18, 2021: 4:00 – 6:00pm

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

1. (4:00) Approval of Minutes (5 min)

October 28, 2021

2. (4:05) Public Forum (5 min)

3. (4:10) Housing Production Strategy Overview (25 min)

Brandon Goldman, Senior Planner

4. (4:35) Annual Update to the Council Debrief (5 min)

5. (4:40) Severe Climate Event Stakeholder Listening Session Debrief (20 min)

Rich Rohde, Echo Fields, Joy Fate

6. (5:00) Severe Climate Event Policy Recommendations Discussion (25 min)

Rich Rohde, Echo Fields, Joy Fate

7. (5:25) Overview of the Affordable Housing Program Presentation (15 min)

Linda Reid, Housing Program Specialist

8. (5:40) (Liaison Reports) (10 min)

Liaison Reports

Council (Gina Duquenne)
SOU Liaison (Unfilled)
SOU program report (Chris Mahan)

Staff (Linda Reid)
General Announcements/Local Housing
Updates

9. (5:50) Upcoming Events and Meetings and Agenda Item Suggestions

December 1, 2021-Snowberry II Preview

December 9, 2021 11:00 AM- 1:00PM-HHSC Goal Setting Retreat

10. (6:00) Adjournment



Memo

DATE: November 15, 2021
TO: Housing and Human Services Commission
FROM: Linda Reid, Housing Program Specialist
RE: October 28 HHSC minutes

At the time of packet issuance, the minutes were not up to date and will be emailed separately before the meeting on November 18, 2021.



Memo

DATE: 11/18/2021
TO: Housing and Human Services Commission
FROM: Linda Reid, Housing Program Manager
RE: Housing Production Strategy Overview

The Housing and Human Services Commission has requested an update regarding the status of the Housing Production Strategy the City of Ashland will be undertaking during 2022. Brandon Goldman, Senior Planner, will be present at the Commission's November 18th Regular meeting to provide an update and address any questions Commissioners may have about the project.

City of Ashland received a Technical Assistance grant from the Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) for preparation of a Housing Production Strategy (HPS). DLCD has contracted with ECONorthwest to provide consultant services to assist the City in preparation of the HPS in conformance with the Oregon Revised Statutes guiding the development of the plan (https://oregon.public.law/statutes/ors_197.290).

Preparation of a HPS will identify and prioritize activities the City can undertake over an 8-year period to promote the production of affordable housing, and other needed housing types. This document builds upon the comprehensive housing needs assessment work included in Ashland's recently adopted [Housing Capacity Analysis](#). The analysis of identified strategies provided in the HPS will evaluate the potential effectiveness of each strategy in meeting Ashland's housing needs in consideration of constraints due to infrastructure capacity, environmental constraints, resources, and regulatory barriers.



Memo

DATE: 11/18/2021
TO: Housing and Human Services Commission
FROM: Linda Reid, Housing Program Specialist
RE: Debrief of the Annual Presentation to the Council

Co-Chairs Linda Reppond and Rich Rohde will provide any feedback from the Council regarding the Commission's annual presentation to the Council which was held on November 16, 2021.



Memo

DATE: 11/18/2021
 TO: Housing and Human Services Commission
 FROM: Linda Reid, Housing Program Specialist
 RE: Severe Climate Event Workgroup Outreach Plan

The Housing and Human Service’s Severe Climate Workgroup hosted two stakeholder listening sessions. One on November 9th and one on November 11th. The November 9th meeting was attended by 13 people, and the November 11th meeting was attended by 7 people. Notes from both meetings are included below. There were a few stakeholders who expressed an interest in providing feedback, although they were unable to attend either meeting, or had additional input that would like to contribute. Any further feedback provided regarding the development of the severe climate policy will be provided to the commission, either via email, or in a more comprehensive memo at the next regular meeting.

Summary of November 9th meeting prepared and submitted by Echo Fields:

11/9/21 Attendees: Isleen Glatt; Delores Nims, Cass Sinclair, Greg Perkinson, Christine Quitt, Joe Gibson, Rachel Dials (and Joy, Rich, Linda, Echo) and Heidi from our Commission. *Echo did the introductions, took notes.*

Parameters for calling a shelter/temp & AQI thresholds: Joy opened with her support the temps listed in “model 1” in the hand out. CQ noted that the parameters in MFR are not great, but what was possible, considering the limited availability of volunteers. *[No discussion of what other ideas about what the numbers might be or are in other models. Didn’t get to the comparison of models in the handout]*

Volunteers: Lots of ideas about volunteer management. DN: COVID required steps to protect older, vulnerable volunteers; CS: OHRA switched to paid staff, not volunteers due to COVID. GP (SOU): students could be more involved if COVID numbers keep improving, more outreach to on campus students who have expressed interest (CS/OHRA concurred) CQ (MFR homeless taskforce) suggested



ways to help churches be so dependent on just their OWN congregants—i.e. creating a shared pool of trained volunteers, use of training videos, identifying “lead” volunteers with additional training/skills, people who can be called upon by multiple groups. Joy: there could be ways to have volunteers who step up for short term/day-to-day/as needed tasks without taking on longer term obligations; IG (Sr. Ctr.) mention the Rogue Valley COAD that could generate a pooled list of persons willing to be volunteers. CQ noted that they have created their own separate email address “Medford emergency shelters” as part of their outreach strategy. CQ noted that Rogue Retreat is ready to open the Pallet Community on E Main, but they don’t have staff available. It can open when workers are hired. The site cannot be used as safe sleep/tent/car camping site.

DN (UU church) commented on the over-reliance on churches for social services—city should do more. How do city officials see their role in providing social services?

Facilities/Locations: GP (SOU) noted that the smoke shelters in 2019 were helpful but COVID made that impossible in 2020. RD(APRC): Pioneer Hall still closed due to COVID still. Will rent for \$20/hr to nonprofits but cannot be used for overnight sheltering because there is no sprinkler system, broken beam. Linda pointed out that facilities for overnight sheltering have different requirements/needs than those that are daytime/business-hours only. The Grove is still closed due to COVID but when open, it will be used mostly for rec classes/activities. Joe noted in the chat that those priorities should be changed—sheltering vulnerable people higher priority than recreation.

Joy commented that in her view people in shelters should not be obligated to sign up for services. CQ said services are offered at her shelter but not required to sign up in order to stay there.

Food: DN: Rogue Retreat has said they plan to provide food for 49 people year round. Volunteers needed to prepare/transport?

Communication/coordination/collaboration: Rich reminded the group of the importance of groups cooperating, communicating

[note: most conversation focused on serving unhoused persons & didn’t touch much on the broader issues of all at-risk populations.]

Summary of November 11th meeting prepared and submitted by Echo Fields:

Attending: Linda Reid. Commissioners: Jackie Bachman, Linda Reppond, Joy Fate, Echo Fields (facilitated/took notes) Stakeholders: **Elizabeth Hallett** (Peace House); **Laurie True** (UCC) **Ted DeLong** (OSF) Echo did intro, shared screen of **agenda/handouts/ temperature & AQI thresholds, definition of vulnerable populations** (i.e. unhoused but others, too). Things Rich would have said:



Stressed the need for **cooperation, communication, collaboration, “centering the voices with lived experience”**

Most conversation focused on warming/winter sheltering since that’s already a need. Didn’t really talk much about cooling or “safe air”/smoke shelters—summer seems too far off right now, so doesn’t seem as urgent.

- **Activation/thresholds:** Linda Rep. noted the need for flexibility in activating shelters. Jackie B. also noted the need for a decision maker—**city manager** ideally—who understands the need for flexibility. Laurie T. pointed out that it would be a bad idea to set thresholds at levels the city/non-profits/churches could not have the **carrying capacity** to deliver on and wondered if the Pallet Community and OHRA will accommodate most people in need, reducing demand for emergency shelters.

Joy joined the meeting a bit late—lots going on at the **Underground Shelter** (officially under the sponsorship of SOJWJ at present)—but shared her experience with demand for warming shelters at present. Laurie asked for **more precise numbers/data** on usage patterns. (At the end of the meeting Joy looked out into the room at the Underground Shelter and counted about 15 people present)

- **Facilities:** Currently, OHRA Center; 2082 E. Main Pallet Community/Rogue Retreat; UU Pallet Shelters, Underground Shelter 5th & N. Main. E. Main **Pallet Community** should be up and running in the next couple of weeks when staff/volunteers are available via Rogue Retreat. Linda Reid explained the current funding situation for E. Main—need for more permanent, long term & predictable funding in the next year. And there is a possibility for more pallet shelter units in the future. [how useful will they be for heat/air quality shelters?] Funding currently: CDBG, HUD, AHTF, social service grants. What other sources might there be?

Joy noted that the **5th & E. Main** building is privately owned & will not be available forever; the owner may need to turn it to other uses and is not being reimbursed for keeping the power on. Joy works to make sure there is “no drama” and the neighbors are not impacted by shelter operations.

More conversation about the use of **the Grove** (Jackie B), prioritizing sheltering above recreational programs. Need for Pioneer Hall to be used, upgrading the kitchen, removing obstacles to using a wider variety of **city-owned spaces/buildings** in emergencies (e.g. fire stations? city council chambers? city hall?) **Pioneer Hall** needs to be available ASAP.

Jackie B. also wondered what spaces the **school district** could contribute



SOU possibilities: Linda Reid shared what Greg Perkinson (SOU VP) said at the Tuesday meeting.

Daytime smoke/heat sheltering may be easier for SOU to accommodate because they may not be overnight. Overnight warming shelters are more complex to staff.

Linda Rep. noted the need for emergency sheltering that can accommodate **families with children**

- **Volunteers.** The pool of volunteers in the community as a whole is aging and thus dwindling. Not only due to COVID. Church congregations are aging beyond the point that volunteer levels will be sustained.
- **Food:** Some questions about what Rogue Food Unites has done in the past, might do in the future in emergent weather situations; also School District kitchens & food programs

Discussion of current needs of the **Peace House/Uncle Foods Diner** for access to commercial kitchen and site for the weekly meals, once the Methodist Church becomes unavailable. Elizabeth & Jackie conversed a bit about OHRA terminating its contract with Peace House for meals, Peace House is also nearing the end of funding from COVID relief and fire emergency sources. [one participant noted that the fire stations have excellent kitchen facilities]

costs associated with providing food: escalating costs for food, food container prices. Transportation from kitchens to sites where meals are being served can be complicated, more expensive. Peace House may need to reduce service in the coming months, and so less able to add any additional tasks related to feeding persons in emergency shelters. Providing food to emergency shelters on top of the more long-term year round programs will **strain capacity**.

Elizabeth H. concluded with the observation that **government needs to do more** because nonprofits and churches are **stretched beyond capacity**.



Memo

DATE: 11/18/2021
TO: Housing and Human Services Commission
FROM: Linda Reid, Housing Program Specialist
RE: Overview of the Affordable Housing Program Part 2

Continuation of the Power Point Presentation on the City of Ashland Affordable Housing Program.

