



CITY OF OREGON CITY

CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE (CIC)

MINUTES

Commission Chambers, 625 Center Street, Oregon City

Monday, January 6, 2025 at 7:00 PM

This meeting was held online via Zoom as well as in person at City Hall Chambers in Oregon City.

1. CALL TO ORDER

PRESENT: 10 - Karla Laws, Linda Baysinger, Dennis Anderson, Lisa Guirsch, Shelly Alway, Betty Mumm, Josh Kayser, Sara Peterson, Denise Beasley, Bob LaSalle, Tim Powell, and Commissioner Adam Marl

ABSENT: 3 - Didi Dahlsrud, Dan Berge, Steve VanHaverbeke

STAFFERS: 2 - Hannah Schmidt, Community Engagement Specialist; Dayna Webb, Public Works Director

2. PRESENTATIONS

a. A Caring Place, Homeless Solutions Coalition of Clackamas County

John Duke and Richard Howells are in attendance to present information on a Caring Place, Homeless Solutions Coalition of Clackamas County (HSCC). The issues around homelessness is very complex. Today, they are hoping to lay the groundwork to end homelessness. The coalition is building a homeless facility on 15th and Main Street in Oregon City.

Howells gave a background history on the organization (HSCC). The first meeting of the coalition was October of 2016. A group of concerned citizens gathered together without organization. The coalition registered as a nonprofit and became a 501c3. A board was formed and staff was hired. Grassroot actions were developed such as warming shelters. The coalition developed community partnerships. They operate with the understanding that the key to success is Trust and Relationship with the community, businesses and the homeless. Mr. Howell described the coalition's mission as developing infinite solutions for homelessness. Their vision is through community partnerships and the goal is prevent homelessness, make it rare, brief and nonrecurring.

John Duke introduced the vision of the Caring place to be about 35,000 square feet in the old Miles Fiberglass building. The old building is being demolished in 2025 and a new building will be constructed in 2025/2026. There will be shared space, integration of homeless services, mental health, medical health and addiction treatment. There will be a community court and legal services. The goal is for stable and long-term housing. The integrated homeless services include The Father's Heart; Clackamas Health Center for mental health, medical health and addiction treatment; LoveOne who provides laundry services and showers around the county as well as A Caring Place; Oregon City Caring Court established by Oregon City with Judge Lindgren, and Clackamas County Coordinated Housing Access program to include their call center. There will be a coffee shop. They are hoping to move into the new building in 2026. People became homeless fast, then new

homes were constructed. From 2023 to 2024 Oregon homelessness increased by 14 percent.

Mr. Duke spoke about different aspects of the homeless situation in Oregon City and Clackamas County. In 2017 there were 13,953 homeless people in Oregon and in 2023 there were 20,110 homeless people in Oregon. The three fastest growing homeless subpopulations in Oregon are Families with Children, Children and Youth, and Elderly individuals. Oregon leads the nation in the percentage of unsheltered homeless families with a lack of family specific shelter services and limited affordable housing options. Oregon ranks first in the United States for unsheltered child homelessness due to economic instability, family displacement, and insufficient resources for youth specific shelters. There is an increasing number of individuals over 55 on low or fixed incomes becoming homeless due to the rising cost of housing and healthcare. The oldest person in Clackamas County to die while homeless was 102 years old in 2024.

Clackamas County's addiction treatment services have a waiting list for all levels of care due to a lack of service slots. There are services lacking such as detox, medication assisted treatment, etc. Available funds are lacking for the services. There is a lack of services in rural communities, lack of residential beds for youth and adults, and lack of transportation.

There is a stabilization center in Milwaukie for those with mental illness patients that need stabilization. A recovery campus is in north Clackamas at the old Clackamas Elementary School. This will be designed for people struggling with addiction to provide the services they need and get them into transitional housing. The Caring place, under construction, is designed as a day center. It is not a shelter. It will have a community health center for diagnoses and medication management until they can get into stabilization center or recovering center.

Howells provided a survey to the CIC members, asking for them to check the most important priorities they wanted to see. As a result of the feedback, Howells would like to come back to a CIC meeting in the future and provide an update regarding those prominent issues identified.

Karla Laws asked about nighttime solutions for homelessness stating there are no longer hotel vouchers. She stated her concerns about drug use versus mental health issues that the police are dealing with. Duke explained the solutions for her concerns are complicated. Clackamas County does not have many shelters or transitional housing but has money coming in for rent assistance. He addressed types of shelters neighborhoods want near their home.

Betty Mumm confirmed the name of the new building is to be Caring Place. Duke explained the hours of operation will differ depending on the facilities within the Caring Place. Betty Mumm inquired where the houseless people would go after the facility closed. Duke stated they are planning for what is currently being done by Father's Heart. Duke encouraged for the Oregon City community to provide concerns and suggested solutions for the Caring Place to consider. Homelessness is a long-term problem needing long-term solutions.

Sara Petersen reminded attendees that Oregon City is the county seat. Duke advised that this program is a county program. He outlined other areas in the county that are set up for

overnight shelters and emphasized that there is not a permanent solution, but the Caring Place is

b. 19531 S. Central Point Road Subdivision Development, Vando Development

Jeff Vanderdasson introduced himself as the owner of Vando Development and is the land use consultant and civil engineer. Sam Karpeles is the developer and part owner of this property. A sign-in sheet was made available to attendees in the back of the room and attendees were encouraged to sign the sheet. A site plan showing the four lots on the property was presented. The existing house will remain intact on the property. There is a large growth of trees, some of which will have to be removed. The lot sizes were described by Vanderdasson along with the reasons for the sizes. He is requesting variances for two lots to accommodate the existing house and the retainment of as many trees as possible. Sidewalks will be installed along Central Point Road. The infrastructure is in place for the site. Vanderdasson is hoping for land-use approval with variances.

Bob La Salle asked about the existing house on lot 4 and addressed the side setback on the left side. Mr. Vanderdasson explained the variances and purposes for them.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Donna Rene Larson, new chair for the Caufield Neighborhood Association (NA), stated she picks up garbage in her neighborhood and has met others that pick-up garbage in other neighborhoods. She inquired about a program to pay the expenses of the volunteer garbage dumping. Commissioner Adam Marl read Metro's program called Rid Patrol. It addresses public property. The Metro website has information on this program.

4. MEETING MINUTES

A motion was made to approve the CIC Meeting Minutes for December 2, 2024. The motion was seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.

5. GENERAL BUSINESS

a. Additional Postcard Request

Donna Rene Larson identified the number of postcards needed for Caufield NA and the budget available resulting in a budget shortfall of \$1140.05. She advised there would only be five meetings and asked for extra funding for six meetings to meet the sign and printing needs of Caufield NA. She emphasized that overage could be utilized by the CIC. Larson shared the postcard costs with the members. She outlined the meeting schedule. The history of CIC budgeting was outlined. Larson agreed to have only five meetings budgeted and use fundraisers or self-funded postcards if needed. Board members discussed budget and NA's use of the budget. Outdoor whiteboard signs were suggested for use.

A motion was made to approve funding for two additional postcard mailers for Caufield Neighborhood Association. Motion was seconded. Karla Laws, Linda Baysinger, Dennis Anderson, Lisa Guirsch, Shelly Alway, Betty Mumm, Sara Peterson, Denise Beasley, Bob LaSalle, Tim Powell voted in favor. Josh Kayser opposed. Motion passes.

The budget was discussed. Committee members discussed where the money will be taken from the budget. Available funds were identified. A Hazel Grove representative explained he did not know when the next meeting will take place outside their April meeting, but they plan to hold more meetings, though likely not this fiscal year.

A motion was made to reduce South End and Hazel Grove down to one meeting for this fiscal year and add two additional postcard mailers for Caufield Neighborhood Association. Motion was seconded. All in favor. Motion passes.

6. STAFF LIAISON UPDATES

a. January Staff Report

Trail News materials will be submitted January 13. If there are any changes that need to be made they need to be sent to Hannah Schmidt before January 13.

The flooring update email did not send properly and was resent today. It explained how to navigate the project page to follow the library flooring project. Regular library hours are scheduled to begin Saturday, February 1.

Clackamas River Water provided door hangers on how to access water during an emergency. There are printed cards on the best ways to include water in emergency kits available for CIC members.

Buel's Impression Printing has been the commonly used vendor for printed materials outside of postcards, but there is not a contract with them.

b. CIC Budget Update

Bob La Salle would like the city to look at the figures on the Caufield neighborhood addresses due to two new large apartment complexes.

c. 2025 Neighborhood Association Schedule

Spring Forward Resource Fair will occur again March 8, 2025, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Community organizations, nonprofits, and organizations wanting to be a vendor will need to submit an application; however, there will still be no fees. A group CIC table is suggested for the NA's. The vendor application is online applications are due on February 7. The fair is hosted at the Pioneer Community Center.

Creating your own Pollinator Paradise will be held January 25, 2025. Flyers are available.

The Caufield steering committee member meeting and use of Zoom account was discussed. August's McLoughlin and Canemah NA meetings are at the same time, but different locations so there is no conflict. Canemah NA general meeting on Juneteenth is a holiday and library is closed. This is an ice cream social event, so the library community room will not be needed.

ROUNDTABLE

For more information on upcoming neighborhood association meetings and contacts please visit: <https://www.orcity.org/community/neighborhood-associations>

McLoughlin – Tim Powell & Denise Beasley

McLoughlin will have their Emergency preparedness meeting for the neighborhood. The steering committee finished their 2025 workplan with six projects to work on this year. The webpage is completed. Denise Beasley was given information on how to find new homeowners in the neighborhood through a title company without cost.

Canemah – Dennis Anderson & Linda Baysinger

November 21 was their last meeting. Halloween activities and their success was addressed at the meeting. The chair spoke about an Ivy grant to cut back the ivy. They discussed the cottage homes. The status of the cottage homes is unknown. Anderson is hoping to find that information through the city. The next Canemah NA meeting is March 20.

Caulfield – Lisa Guirsh

The next meeting will be January 8. The new chair is Donna who is in attendance. Signs and postcards were addressed in this meeting.

Gaffney Lane – Shelly Alway & Betty Mumm

Gaffney Lane will have their meeting on the January 21. The Homeless Solutions Coalition, LoveOne, and the City's behavior health specialist will be in attendance. The meeting will be in the Oregon City Community Development Room.

Hillendale – Sara Peterson & Josh Kayser

There is a meeting tomorrow with the Oxford House, giving a presentation. Police and fire will attend with law enforcement updates and levy updates. Examples of postcard template suggestions were presented by Sara Peterson.

Elyville – Karla Laws

Their next general meeting is scheduled for March. The steering committee meeting will be in February.

Commissioner Adam Marl – Update

- a. Commissioner Marl reported that K9 Officer Grendel has passed away. He was a great officer for the community. There will be a meeting tomorrow where the new commissioner and Commissioner Mitchel will be sworn in. There will be a second reading of the Park Place concept and code amendments. Commissioner Marl expressed his appreciation to the CIC Chair for inviting the Homeless Solutions Coalition of Clackamas County to the meeting. The city has no control over this moving into the city; however, he appreciates them speaking and inviting citizen involvement. A city commissioner liaison will be on the board of the Homeless Solutions Coalition of Clackamas County. Commissioner Marl reported he was elected to be on the board of the League of Oregon Cities last year. He will attend his first meeting this January. Cities around the state have a lot of similar problems.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned with the next meeting scheduled for February 3, 2025