

COORDINATED HOUSELESS RESPONSE OFFICE (CHRO)

Board Meeting Minutes

11 - 12:30 pm on Thursday, October 26th, 2023

Deschutes Services Building, Allen Room (2nd floor), 1300 NW Wall St., Bend, OR

Attendance: Commissioner Adair, Chair, Deschutes County; Councilor Perkins, City of Bend; Councilor Blum, City of Sisters; Councilor Zwicker, City of Redmond; Mayor Richer, City of La Pine; Chris Ogren, CHRO; Erik Kropp, Deschutes County; Angie Powers, Deschutes County; Commissioner Tony Debone, Deschutes County; Kristie Bollinger, Deschutes County; William Bailey, Deschutes County Sheriff's Office; Eric King, City Manager – City of Bend; Keith Witcosky, City Manager – City of Redmond; Mickie Derting, City of Bend; Lynne McConnell, City of Bend; Amy Fraley, City of Bend; Kerry Prosser, City of Sisters; Geoff Wullschlager, City of La Pine; Tammy Baney, Executive Director – COIC; Molly Heiss, NeighborImpact; Brook O'Keefe, City of Bend; Colleen Sinsky, Executive Director – FUSE; Linda Murrer, Community Member; Chuck Hemingway, Community Member.

1. **Introductions and Agenda Review**

Chair Adair called the meeting to order at 11:00 and asked participants to introduce themselves.

2. **Approval of Minutes**

The group reviewed the minutes from the meeting on September 21. Chair Adair asked why there wasn't a date specified in the minutes for when the Public Partners Roundtable would be held, based on the discussion in September. Chris Ogren explained that the Board did not come to a decision on the date in the September meeting, but that staff had more information prepared to discuss the Public Partners Roundtable during agenda item #5.

VOTE: Councilor Blum motioned approval of the September 21st minutes. Councilor Zwicker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

3. **COIC Update & MOU Discussion**

Tammy Baney explained that the COIC and Deschutes County were making progress on finalizing the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to transition the oversight of the CHRO to Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council (COIC). The MOU is necessary because COIC is not party to HB4123 agreement with the State of Oregon, but rather Deschutes County is. Tammy noted that COIC had already begun the recruitment process, so that COIC will have the support staff ready to support the CHRO when the transition occurs. Tammy explained that COIC had requested a few changes from the County, and the County was amendable to the suggested changes. Tammy asked the CHRO Board how they would like to participate in the hiring process. Councilors Zwicker, Perkins, and

Blum expressed an interest in seeing the interview questions and participate in the hiring process. Mayor Richer noted that the more involved the CHRO Board is, the better. Commissioner Adair asked County staff for the date that the MOU vote would go before the Deschutes County Board of Commissioners. Erik Kropp noted the vote was currently scheduled for November.

4. Bylaws Discussion

Mickie Derting provided a recap of changes to the board bylaws, based on feedback received from the CHRO Board. The Board provided feedback and called out some requested changes. Commissioner Adair and Councilor Zwicker asked to remove the context section about NeighborImpact. Councilors Blum and Zwicker asked for clarifying language about the membership terms.

VOTE: Councilor Zwicker motioned approval of the bylaws with changes. Mayor Richer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Public Partners Roundtable Update

Tammy Baney provided an update on the timeline and deliverables from internal staff discussions about the Public Partners Roundtable, and highlighted what had been accomplished in the process so far. Tammy explained that after much preparation, the Public Partners Roundtable Subcommittee was prepared to discuss the list of identified properties in executive session in the near future. Tammy said after the CHRO Board members had a chance to see the list of properties, it would be ready to share with the public, and hold the public roundtable discussion to decide how the properties could be used to help address Central Oregon's unsheltered homelessness crisis.

Councilor Perkins asked for clarity on the steps in the process, and Tammy clarified that information would be shared with CHRO board members first, solicit feedback from the board, then release the final draft to the public, the Public Roundtable would follow, and then the CHRO could start to focus on implementation. Tammy asked if CHRO Board members had any other feedback, because ultimately this was their process.

Councilor Perkins noted that public engagement would be challenging with so much being done behind the scenes. Tammy offered that the same could happen if the CHRO just released all of the properties with no pre-work. Commissioner Adair asked Councilor Blum if she had any input to add, based on Sisters' recent experience with public engagement. Councilor Blum said she sees both sides, but emphasized that public engagement is crucial if a project is to be successful. Chris Ogren suggested the idea of an open house, similar to how Deschutes County has managed the Solid Waste Advisory Committee's (SWAC) public outreach

about siting a new solid waste management facility in the County. Councilors Perkins and Zwicker both supported the idea of an open house.

Councilor Perkins noted that she felt like some of the initial request was lost in the process of designing the public partners roundtable, namely the focus on the immediate nature of the problem. Councilor Perkins asked if in subcommittee meetings, staff are discussing what can be offered to individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness immediately, like water, port-a-potties, and garbage services. Tammy noted that there have been conversations about what could be offered at newly identified sites, but not at established unsanctioned camps at this time. Councilor Perkins emphasized the need to act now. Councilor Perkins said that site development will take time, and the group needs to look at what services can be provided immediately, in the meantime. Tammy offered that this could be a discussion point at the Roundtable. Councilor Blum and Commissioner Adair noted that Winter has already started in Sisters, and agreed about the need to act soon. Councilor Perkins offered that maybe one Roundtable Discussion wasn't enough, and there may be a need for more meetings. Councilor Zwicker advocated for one meeting. Councilor Blum suggested the topic of scheduling a second meeting could come after the first has occurred. Tammy asked Chris Ogren to coordinate with the CHRO members to schedule meetings to share site information and begin working on scheduling for the Public Partners Roundtable.

6. Lighthouse Renovations

Lynne McConnell and Amy Fraley presented to the CHRO Board on the Lighthouse Navigation Center and the City's plan for maintaining operations through the renovation period. Commissioner Adair mentioned she had heard that the Lighthouse needs additional staff, and Commissioner Adair expressed an interest in providing more County employees from the Health Department. Lynne McConnell agreed that the City of Bend also wants to see more services provided at the Lighthouse.

Amy Fraley provided some data metrics about the Lighthouse in 2023. The Lighthouse is consistently hosting more people than the site has capacity for, which reflects the need in the community. Amy also reviewed the Lighthouse's planned renovations, sponsored by the City of Bend. Commissioner Adair asked Amy if she expected costs forecasting to hold true. Amy said they had a very competitive bid process and are confident that costs will hold consistent. Councilor Blum cautioned about the possibility of public backlash through this process. Lynne acknowledged that people come to Bend because they provide services. Lynne thanked Commissioner Adair for championing the Safe Parking Model.

7. Community Updates

Mayor Richer – La Pine

Homeless situation in La Pine is stable. Community kitchen serves meals every day and warming shelter hours are being extended.

Councilor Zwicker – Redmond

Oasis Village is getting their community building this week and the open house for Shepherd's House Redmond shelter is next week.

Councilor Blum – Sisters

No requests for anyone to operate a warming shelter in Sisters this year. The City of Sisters is looking to other community partners to possibly operate something.

Commissioner Adair – Deschutes County

Commissioner Adair expressed a serious concern about reports from St. Charles about babies being born with Fentanyl Addictions.

Councilor Perkins – Bend

Lighthouse updates are plenty from the City of Bend.

8. Provider Update – FUSE

Colleen Sinsky provided an introduction and overview into FUSE's programs. Colleen explained that FUSE provides tenant-based Permanent Supportive Housing as well as offers a Barrier Busting Fund to support providers with rehousing clients. Colleen provided information on FUSE's performance over 2023, and proudly shared that FUSE had exceeded each of its goals for 2023 already in October. Commissioner Adair thanked Colleen for her time and invited her to present to the CHRO again when she has more updates to provide.

9. Public Comment

Linda Murrer – Expressed gratitude for the emphasis on community engagement in the Public Partners Roundtable. Linda also asked the CHRO Board how they intended to solve homelessness.

10. Other Items & Adjourn

Chair Adair adjourned the meeting at 12:37 pm.