

**Bend City Council Joint Meeting with  
Deschutes County Board of Commissioners  
October 10, 2023**

The joint meeting of the Bend City Council and Deschutes County Board of Commissioners was called to order at 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 10, 2023 in Council Chambers, 710 NW Wall Street, and online. Present were Mayor Melanie Kebler, Mayor Pro Tem Megan Perkins, Councilor Anthony Broadman, Councilor Barb Campbell, Councilor Megan Norris, Councilor Ariel Méndez, Councilor Mike Riley, Commission Chair Tony DeBone, Commissioner Phil Chang, and Commissioner Patti Adair.

- 1. Called to Order at 2:00 p.m.**
- 2. Coordination of Houseless Strategies and Siting of Managed Camps (60 minutes)**
  - **Governor's Office Framework: State, County and City roles to work in partnership on siting of managed camps**
  - **Update on current shelter capacity and funding needs**

Amy Fraley, Senior Program Manager and Lynne McConnell, Housing Manager presented slides on Houselessness in Central Oregon.

City Manager Eric King shared that the City has done what it can at the local level. The Governor's Office is involved to further advance idea of more managed camps. They are working on a framework plan to identify parcels and remove barriers. They have convened public landowners and formed a technical group. It is a work in progress.

Mayor Kebler said she is hoping Bend, Redmond and Deschutes County will all sign on to the framework.

- **CHRO/Health Dept. Staff outline of best practices for managed camp, resources needed, and core values to guide siting and operations**

Chris Ogren, Houseless Response Analyst and Janice Garceau Director of Health Services provided a report on the Coordinated Houseless Response Office (CHRO) including values and criteria.

Councilor Broadman said the initial intent was to have very clear roles and responsibilities. Broadman asked when to expect that work product from the CHRO. Ogren responded the leadership piece needs to be finalized. Tammy Baney, COIC was unable to attend today. Ogren agreed that it feels unclear, but they are moving towards clarity. Councilor Perkins said there have been bumps in the road, but the CHRO is headed in a direction to serve as a guidepost for our community and will have the important conversation on roles and responsibilities.

- **Update on Juniper Ridge/Dirt World Remediation Plan**

Erik Kropp, Deputy County Administrator and Kristie Bollinger, Property Manager provided an update.

Kropp shared work completed by the County at Juniper Ridge. County staff will return to the Board for direction. They need somewhere for the people to go. The County is looking for additional outdoor spaces for managed camps. Bollinger estimated there were 200-250 people in that area.

Commission Chang said it is important to distinguish between what is happening now at Juniper Ridge and managed camps. They need to provide case management, supports and accountability to help people change their situation.

Mayor Kebler stressed the importance to meet service needs of the target population and provide resources. Kebler recently spoke to a School Board member about how to support students. Once students get to school, there are resources available.

Commissioner DeBone said this is a code enforcement issue, once opened, not closed until it's resolved. Commissioner Adair said there needs to be a 24/7 managed camp and noted the recent need for armed guards. Adair said she is hoping the Governor will be amenable to another location.

Councilor Campbell expressed thanks to the County for not sweeping people out of Juniper Ridge.

- **Update on City Camping Code**

King provided an update on the City's Camping Code including an upcoming check in with Council on November 15. It is an on-going conversation. King responded to Adair, that they have seen fewer large encampments, some challenges around RV camping, and overall, the Code is doing what it's intended to do.

- **Update on County feasibility study for additional campground(s)**

Jen Patterson, Strategic Initiatives Manager and Nick Lelack, County Administrator provided information on potential campgrounds in the County.

Patterson said the County has contracted with ECO Northwest to conduct a feasibility study for market rate camping (not managed camps). Patterson shared slides with potential locations including Fort Thompson Road area, Steamboat Rock near Crooked River Ranch, and Drafter Road Area.

Commissioner Chang asked to add this to the agenda because of implications for housing and dispersed camping. Creating places for people to camp could relieve some of the pressure on our nearby Federal lands.

Commissioner Adair had a bill in the last session for a site with 330 manufactured homes that could provide workforce housing. Adair continues to work with Rep Levy.

**3. Update on the Siting Process for a new Deschutes County Landfill and Solid Waste Management Coordination (20 minutes)**

- **Summary of need and timeline**
- **Update on process and locations under consideration**

Tim Brownell, Director of Solid Waste provided the staff presentation.

There are two sites for final evaluation, Moon Pit Site and Roth- East Side. The research and outreach process will take an additional 6 months to complete. The final recommendation to the Board of Commissioners will happen in April or May of 2024. It will take 3-5 years to go through the permitting and land use process.

- **Coordination of solid waste management including franchisee oversight with the County**

Bronwell explained that transfer stations will continue to serve local communities and their recycling and disposal needs. With the franchise agreements they are working on transparent, service expectations and reporting. The County is willing to administer the contracts in collaboration with the cities.

Councilor Méndez noted the polystyrene ban passed by legislature. Méndez asked are there other things to request of the legislature to reduce the need for expanded landfill sites. Brownell spoke to educating consumers on options and working with the legislature to support those options. Lithium batteries are causing fires at sites on a daily basis.

**4. Legislative priorities (30 minutes)**

- **Sustainable shelter operations funding**
- **Housing supply: infrastructure, land supply**

Commissioner DeBone shared legislative priorities including water rulemaking, drug courts, and measure 110. Commissioner Adair added that the Commission is meeting on Thursday with the judges about options to continue the drug court. Commissioner Chang attended the final adult treatment court yesterday, there is a need to get the message out about the number of partners needed and shortfalls on many fronts. Chang proposed a sit down to put together a policy paper on what a drug court can accomplish and what is needed to bring it back.

Councilor Broadman raised this issue at the Local Public Safety Coordinating Council (LPSCC). The City has scheduled an upcoming meeting with the District Attorney and Judge. They could potentially use LPSCC to give courts whatever support they need.

Commissioner Chang spoke about the groundwater allocation rulemaking and draft letter. Chang has some concerns about letter as written and the need to acknowledge that groundwater levels have declined by a significant amount. In the County, existing wells are going dry and need to be deeper. Chang noted impact of 5 or 10 feet on domestic supply.

Mayor Kebler suggested it was good topic for a future joint meeting.

**5. Adjourned at 3:43 p.m.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Robyn Christie  
City Recorder