

Hillsboro 2035 Community Plan Oversight Committee Meeting Summary



October 13, 2022

Attendees: Israel Munoz, Rommel Rodriguez, Heather Robinson, Cindy Cosenzo, Beth Graser, Elijah Lynn, Amber Wilson, Jason Robertson, Dacia Bakkum, Guest Presenter - Mandy Gawf
Absent: Deanna Palm, Sarah Moll, Simone Brooks, Kim Megorden, Tonya Leedy, EJ Payne

Welcome + Introductions

Committee Chair Israel Munoz welcomed the group and asked for a round of introductions.

Partner Feature Presentation

Mandy Gawf, Community Services Coordinator with the City of Hillsboro, shared information about the City's response to homelessness, pathways to shelter and the connection of this work to Hillsboro 2035. Highlights from the presentation include:

Point in Time Count

- A Point-in-Time Count is a count of sheltered and unsheltered people who are experiencing homelessness on a single night in each community. Counts are carried out by City staff, local nonprofit agencies, and volunteers who conduct surveys that allow people who are experiencing homelessness to express their specific needs and housing status.
- There were just over 800 individuals experiencing homelessness (combining sheltered/unsheltered) in Washington County in 2022, up about 100 over 2021. The number of unsheltered houseless individuals rose from 2019-2021 and decreased by about 36% in 2022 largely due to more shelter beds available in the community.
- The 2022 PIT Count revealed the following:
 - 227 unsheltered individuals in Washington County; of these 93 were in Hillsboro
 - 15 identified as veterans
 - 15 identified as domestic violence victims
 - 182 reported having disabilities

Community Survey on Homelessness

1. Mailed informational flyers were listed as most helpful way to inform of shelter siting.
2. Preferred Communication distance is a one-mile radius from the shelter site.
3. Impacts to environmentally sensitive areas was top factor for siting consideration, followed by proximity to schools.
4. The top three suggestions for addressing homelessness were permanent housing, shelter/alternative shelter options, and mental health or substance use resources.

Estimated Timeline for Permanent Shelter

- Winter 2021-Spring 2022: Preliminary Scope and Estimating
- Spring 2022: Begin Development Review Process
- Fall 2022: Architect Selection
- Winter 2022-Spring 2023: Project Design and Plans; Develop Intergovernmental Agreement
- Mid 2023: Rehab and Renovation Begins (subject to contractor/supply availability)

Project Stakeholders

- Residents
- Businesses
- People experiencing homelessness
- Park user
- Jurisdictional partners
- Nonprofits and culturally specific partners
- City department stakeholders

Engagement to Date and Next Steps

- Launched webpage (<https://www.hillsboro-oregon.gov/services/community-services/homelessness-initiatives/shelters>) and Engage Hillsboro page (<https://engage.hillsboro-oregon.gov/yearroundshelter>)
- Mailing to residents and businesses within a one-mile radius of the shelter site
- Business Walk Arouns
- Three focus groups
- Shelter operator selection
- Good Neighbor Agreement

Safe Rest Pods Temporary Shelter

- While the permanent shelter is under development, a temporary shelter will open with some residents moving onto the site and into Safe Rest Pods on Monday, October 17.
- Path to temporary shelter: Establish Intergovernmental Agreement and Permits + Stakeholder Engagement + Site Prep + Service Provider Selection + Construction = Short Term Shelter Project.
- Local nonprofit organization, Open Door Housing Works, was selected to manage the shelter.

Related Hillsboro 2035 Actions

- Research best practices and partnership opportunities for providing expanded shelter and mental health services for houseless people

- Create a day center for houseless people with shower/restroom facilities, job training and placement services, mental health and addiction services, personal services (haircuts, dental exams, etc.) and respite space from hot or inclement weather
- Develop strategies with neighborhoods and districts to effectively manage the impacts of homelessness in their areas and establish minimum operating standards for mitigation of camp sites

Member Q +A

- What are the policies around access to housing? A: At our shelters, we do not currently drug-test, but no active use is allowed on-site. With respect to those that are chronically homeless and unable to access family shelters, we are emphasizing a housing-first approach where we secure individual living quarters then work on wrap around services.
- One member encouraged others to view a documentary called “Wisdom of Trauma” to better understand the root causes of homelessness and drug use. It’s a transformative way of viewing and understanding our fellow citizens and developing empathetic approaches.
- It was also mentioned that there is a Hillsboro Sub-Reddit (online discussion group) that contains some negative comments about homelessness. There are also questions about “who to call” around homeless issues or conflicts. A) Currently, there is not direct one-stop for those questions, but partners are looking into a regional approach. Additional info will be shared with OT when ready.
- Other suggestions re outreach approach included:
 - Reaching out to churches
 - Holding community info forums and discussions
 - Purchasing additional hotels
 - Emphasizing that these are our peer humans
 - Working with businesses to fund additional sites and solutions
 - Ensuring shelters (pods) are weatherproof and functional (e.g., have charging stations for phones)

Fall/Winter Community Engagement + Community Learning Concept

These two agenda items were postponed and will be discussed at the next meeting.

Member Updates/Public Comment

The City of Hillsboro is recruiting for a Public Engagement Committee (PEC) member to begin in early 2023. The PEC has one seat for a liaison from the Hillsboro 2035 Oversight Committee.

Role of Public Engagement Committee:

- Advise the Planning Commission on land use and transportation-related public involvement practices
- Develop effective public involvement strategies

- Identify stakeholder groups to engage
- Ensure public engagement strategies are culturally appropriate and effective

PEC Meetings:

The Public Engagement Committee meets as needed - members may attend up to 4 meetings a year. If you are interested in applying, please contact Dan Rutzick at dan.rutzick@hillsboro-oregon.gov by November 15.

Next Oversight Committee Meeting

Thursday, December 1, 2022

4:00-6:00pm

Location TBD