

Regional Housing & Growth Issues Partnership

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WEEKLY UPDATE 6/27/22

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Welcome to the Weekly Update! The Regional Housing & Growth Issues Partnership Advisory Group met via Zoom on Monday, June 22. All Advisory Group meetings are recorded, so if you couldn't attend and would like to watch the meeting, visit our website www.rhgip.com. Questions and feedback can be emailed to info@rhgip.com

Here's a recap of Monday's meeting:

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The RHGIP is seeking input from the Advisory and Working groups on what the role of the partnership should be moving forward. The current mission is to serve as a resource for the region and provide tools and information on how to increase the availability and affordability of local worker housing. Email feedback to info@rhgip.com
- Workshops are being scheduled with local city councils and Planning & Zoning Commissions to educate those groups on the tools RHGIP already has available and share the results of community surveys.
- Gary Hall, President of North Idaho Building Contractors Association, will present at July's meeting, sharing information about the economic impact the building industry has in Kootenai County.
- The CDAEDC was awarded a grant for an AmeriCorps Vista position that will work on housing and workforce issues. The job description, pay and benefits can be viewed here: <https://my.americorps.gov/mp/listing/viewListing.do?fromSearch=true&id=112026>. Please share with your organization.
- Jennifer Smock of Windemere Real Estate shared a real estate market update. Median sales prices for homes have increased sharply since RHGIP was formed. Compared to last year, the median sales price in Coeur d'Alene has risen 24 percent to \$610,000. The median sales price in Post Falls increased 23 percent to \$555,000. Countywide, the median sales price is up 22 percent to \$643,000. Prices on vacant lots have increased significantly as well, which makes building affordable homes more challenging, especially when combined with increasing cost of materials and labor and supply chain issues. For more of Jennifer's presentation, view the recording of the Advisory Group meeting at <https://rhgip.com/agendas%2Fmeetings>

- Lindsay Allen of Coeur d'Alene Regional REALTORS said the organization met with Kiki Miller to discuss how local Realtors could assist the RHGIP. Lindsay said one thing they can do is educate landowners, builders, developers and consumers on how they can support the RHGIP's efforts. Coeur d'Alene Regional REALTORS can also network with their peers statewide and work to address issues related to local worker housing at the legislative level.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Schools Subcommittee:** The committee has drafted a resolution that we are asking our school boards to consider supporting and taking to the Idaho Association of School Boards (IASBO) in July. If approved, Post Falls, Lakeland and Coeur d'Alene school districts will present the resolution to other districts at the conference and ask for support. The Resolution is to amend the code to increase the term allowable for a School Plant Facility Levy from 10 years to 20 years. The following is an excerpt from the Resolution that is being presented for consideration to the local school boards.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Changing the allowable term for a SCHOOL PLANT FACILITIES RESERVE FUND LEVY from a period not to exceed ten (10) years, to a period not to exceed **twenty (20) years** in Idaho Code 33-804 would allow districts to access funding under the School Plant Facilities Reserve Fund Levy. It would allow for a more reasonable threshold for voter approval based on the dollar amount the district needs. Further, extending the term will allow districts to ask the voting electors of the district for a necessary amount of funding over a longer period of time to help maintain lower local tax rates. This modification will assist school districts in expanding options available to manage their needs for large construction and maintenance projects in a district.

- **Funding-Revenue-Trust Fund Subcommittee:** RHGIP Working Group members Maggie Lyons and Kiki Miller have been engaging in discussions with local builders, developers and organizations about ways of incorporating goals for local worker housing into development projects. ARPA funding for local worker housing is also being explored. Maggie was unavailable, but gave Kiki a report to share. Maggie said it is encouraging that homeownership development appears to be within the scope of permitted projects for the new \$50 million Housing Trust Fund funding based on the revised draft, but legal counsel has expressed concerns about compliance with fair housing constraints under the draft proposal. Maggie and others are providing comments on the draft to IHFA.
- **HomeShare Subcommittee:** HomeShare Kootenai County has received a contribution to assist with startup costs and the nonprofit has board members in place, developed a 2-year budget for operating expenses, and is approaching potential donors and supporters. An initial marketing campaign will focus on Home Providers. HomeShare Kootenai County needs at least two more volunteers and is seeking another board members. Please share with those in your organization. For more information email info@homesharekc.org
- **Rentals Subcommittee:** The results of CDA2030's Rentals Survey and a press release on the results are available at <https://rhgip.com/news-%26-events#5c79f715-44eb-40ea-9f5c-74ca0ba004af>

- **Health Care/Public Safety Subcommittee:** Due to scheduling challenges, this 7-member task force has yet to schedule a meeting.

MORE UPDATES

- **State ARPA Funds/Idaho Workforce Housing Fund:** A draft Idaho Workforce Housing Fund Program Workforce Housing Allocation Plan is available at <https://www.idahohousing.com/documents/draft-allocation-plan-for-the-idaho-workforce-housing-fund.pdf>. Idaho Housing and Finance Association will hold a virtual forum to share more info, possibly in July.
- **Volunteerism Impact Surveys:** The goal of this survey is to get a better understanding of how the housing crisis is affecting volunteerism in North Idaho. Losing volunteers can have significant economic impacts on our community and organizations. According to the Idaho Nonprofit Center, 75% of nonprofit organizations that responded to their survey from the Panhandle said they were reliant or extremely reliant on volunteers to carry out their programs. Additionally, they said 60% of organizations statewide that responded to the survey said they did not currently have sufficient capacity to implement all of their organization's plans - thus needed more volunteer support. This survey is being sent to organizations in Kootenai County as part of the Regional Housing & Growth Issues Partnership (RHGIP) outreach efforts. The results will be shared with the RHGIP participants and the Idaho Nonprofit Center. Thank you for taking a few minutes to provide this important information. We ask that your organization respond to this survey by July 8! We would also appreciate posting the survey link in your newsletters and websites.
 - RHGIP - Volunteerism Impact Survey (ORGANIZATIONS):
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GDYL9XS>
 - RHGIP - Volunteerism Impact Survey (VOLUNTEERS):
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FFTCRF8>

THE NEXT ADVISORY GROUP MEETING IS AT 3 P.M. MONDAY, JULY 28.