



CITY COUNCIL

Work Session Meeting Minutes February 27, 2022

Mayor Drotzmann called the work session meeting to order at 6:00pm. Present were Councilors Hardin, Peterson, Primmer, Duron, McCarthy, and Myers. Councilors Linton and Barron were excused. Staff members in attendance were: City Manager Byron Smith, Assistant City Manager Mark Morgan, City Attorney Richard Tovey, Chief Edmiston, Planning Director Clint Spencer, and City Recorder Lilly Alarcon-Strong. Youth Advisory Member Julissa Gonzalez- Mendoza was also in attendance.

Industrial Lands Study

Assistant City Manager Mark Morgan, and representatives from Maul Foster & Alongi, Inc. Seth Otto and Garrett Augustyn gave information regarding the possible expansion of City limits to accommodate for industrial land as the City continues to grow and presented the Council with information regarding the Hermiston Industrial Lands and Site Development Assessment as detailed in the agenda packet report.

PATH Project

Umatilla City Manager Dave Stockdale, Stepping Stones Alliance Executive Director Jesalyn Cole, and Stepping Stones Alliance Board Chair Cathy Lloyd, presented the 2nd Quarter Report (attached) and information regarding Stepping Stones Alliance -the contracted partner for the PATH Project-, updates on how the project is currently functioning, upcoming goals, long-term goals, PATH Project Partnerships, current and future services and amenities offered to guests, site and building development, information and the number of guests PATH has/is serving, staffing, volunteers, financial information, and more.

Adjournment

Mayor Drotzmann adjourned the work session meeting at 6:54pm and stated the Council will take a short break before starting the regular City Council meeting at 7:00pm.

Project PATH

2nd Quarter Report, FY 22-23


PILOT PROGRAM CONTACTS**COUNTY COMMISSIONER**

Dan Dorran

CITY MANAGERS

Dave Stockdale, Umatilla

Byron Smith, Hermiston

Ben Burgener, Stanfield


Dave Slaght, Echo

PROJECT CONTACT

Esmeralda Perches

STEPPING STONES CONTACT

Cathy Lloyd

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This report is provided in accordance with the Service Agreement between Stepping Stones Alliance and the City of Umatilla as part of the West Umatilla County partnership to provide services to our community's homeless residents through Project PATH (Practical Assistance through Transitional Housing). This initial report provides an update on site preparations, community outreach, strategic plan, budget, and general services. More detailed materials are available upon request which might include draft/adopted operational policies and procedures, meeting minutes of Stepping Stones Alliance, or general member policies and code of conduct. This report is intended to serve as a high level update of the services provided and the general progress we have made thus far.

PERSONNEL UPDATE

Stepping Stones Alliance (SSA) is currently seeking an Executive Director and has hired their Sleep Center Coordinator and Two Night-Staff employees. SSA is currently actively seeking other candidates to fill the position of Navigation Center Coordinator. The Sleep Center is operational seven days a week and utilizes several volunteers daily.

SITE UPDATE

CONCEPT PLAN



CLEARED SITE



CONESTOGA HUTS

Materials to construct 25 Huts were donated by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. Huts will be used for housing.

Construction began last quarter with a total of 534 documented labor hours so far, most of which was by volunteers



NAVIGATION CENTER

The Navigation Center building was donated by a private party. This building is currently located in the City of Umatilla's storage yard. The Navigation Center will be used for offices that will provide services to our members and guests from staff or other community partners.



SLEEP CENTER

The Sleep Center is currently located in Boise, where it was constructed and is awaiting delivery to Pasco. The Sleep Center was purchased by Stepping Stones through an ARPA grant. The Sleep Center will be used as a warming and cooling facility for overnight shelter.



SHOWER UNITS

Shower Units were purchased with funds from the Good Shepherd Health Foundation. These shower units will be available to transitional housing residents.

TRANSPORTATION PLAN UPDATE

The City of Umatilla has initiated discussions with Kayak in hopes of creating a public transportation solution that would provide transportation to and from Project PATH. We continue to work to develop an economical solution that will meet the needs for PATH. These initial discussions have proven more difficult than anticipated and negotiations continue toward this effort.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH UPDATE



SSA has hired a social media consultant to establish a website and a social media presence. They also continue to improve and development their website: www.stepping-stones-alliance.org

SSA has also contacted many local churches and distributed fliers and information regarding all current services offered, which is primarily Sleep Center services at this time.

STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE

HB-4123 requires that PATH develop and adopt a five-year Strategic Plan that includes identifying funding for ongoing operations and streamlining resources and services to people at risk. It also requires the incorporation of national best practices for ending homelessness, eliminating racial disparities and creating pathways to permanent housing. This plan must be adopted by June 30, 2023. We have hired Carla McLane to assist us in the development of the plan. An initial outlined draft of this plan will be provided to the Advisory Board at your March 23, 2023 meeting.

BUDGET

Stepping Stones Alliance has adopted their Annual Budget for PATH according to the table on the right. This budget will utilize \$405,000 in HB4123 funding and \$33,949 in SSA funds. This leaves about \$75,000/year in Operational Contingency funds each year for FY23 and FY24. Both the City of Umatilla and SSA continue to research potential grant funding opportunities and will come with updated information to the Advisory Board on your February 23, 2023 meeting.

Annual Adopted Budget	
Personnel	\$401,000
Operation & Maintenance	\$37,949
Total	\$438,949

SERVICE REPORT UPDATE

Project PATH continues to seek partnership agreements with potential local service providers. The following is a list of those agencies we continue to work with toward that effort;

Community Counseling Solutions	WorkSource Oregon	Martha's House
Blue Mountain Community College	Department of Human Services	Capeco
Umatilla Disability & Veteran Svc	COPES	Desert Rose Ministries

SLEEP CENTER



HERMISTON



Stepping Stones

SLEEP CENTER

Shelter OPENS **DECEMBER 1**

- Enter nightly **6:30 – 9pm**
- **Get a ride (free) by local Cab**
Pick up 6pm at Desert Rose; or 7pm at Food Pods; or 8pm at Walmart
- **Location: 80487 US 395 – North of Hermiston** in the former Sears; now the AGRILABOR building

Project PATH is currently leasing the old Sears building located in Hermiston as a temporary Sleep Center. The Sleep Center opened their doors on December 1, 2022 for guests seeking a warm overnight shelter. SSA has hired a Sleep Center Coordinator and two full time night staff employees. These three employees, together with 39 volunteers, provided services to an average of 13 guests per night. Project PATH has utilized the services of the Hermiston Cab Company for transportation to and from the Sleep Center while we work to develop a more permanent, sustainable and affordable transportation solution. PATH The Sleep Center is open from 6:00pm-8:00am. Intake for registration is from 6:30pm-9:00pm, the only admittance after 9:00pm is by law enforcement.

Sleep Center Information

December

Total Guests	388
Total Unique Guests	53
10 Females	43 Males
Average Nightly Guests	13

PLANS FOR NEXT QUARTER

1. We will continue to work with community service providers and hope to have several of them under contract to help meet the needs of some of the goals and services of PATH: medical, dental, counseling, housing/rent assistance, etc. We will be sure to update the Advisory Board in our next report.
2. Ducote Consulting has been contracted to assist in searching for grant or private funds to continue operations past the initial two years. Initial research seems quite promising. We anticipate coming to the Advisory Board in April with identified grants to pursue and likely draft applications ready for submittal.
3. We establish a relationship with our local Continuum of Care Provider to assist and support our efforts to provide solutions for homelessness
4. We will establish our move-in date into our facility at Lind/Bensel, currently estimated for early June. We will likely have a physical hiatus in the month of May as we transition from the old Sears building to our PATH facility. More to come on this topic at your April meeting.