



REQUEST FOR COUNCIL ACTION

Title: INFORMATION ONLY: FAC Managed Outreach and Community Resource Facility Update

Preferred Agenda: May 24, 2022

Submitted By: Blair Larsen, Community & Economic Development Director

Reviewed By: Christy Wurster, Interim City Manager

Type of Action: Resolution ____ Motion ____ Roll Call ____ Other ____

Relevant Code/Policy: N/A

Towards Council Goal: Aspiration I, desirable community; Aspiration IV, viable and sustainable essential services; Aspiration V, economically strong environment; Goal 3: essential services.

Attachments:

Purpose of this RCA:

The purpose of this Request for Council Action is to present an update regarding the development of Family Assistance and Resource Center Group's (FAC's) Managed Outreach and Community Resource Facility, which is primarily directed at unsheltered members of the community.

Background/Context:

City of Sweet Home residents have suffered from homelessness and the effects of homelessness for many years. Recent court decisions have limited the City's ability to enforce any ordinances restricting urban camping, sleeping, or otherwise occupying public rights-of-way or public property. For many reasons, the problem has only grown worse in recent years.

For over a year, the City has been working with FAC to create a facility where the unsheltered can keep warm, sleep, and access the services necessary for them to move into permanent housing. Such a facility would enable the City to enforce its urban camping ordinances and direct individuals to the facility, as long as the facility has space available.

Recently, Linn County donated property to FAC for this facility, and the City Council has approved a Memorandum of Understanding with FAC for the development and operation of the facility.

May Update:

- The City and FAC continue to meet once a week to coordinate the development.
- Public Works staff have begun rough grading of the site, both on the FAC property and on the easement through City property.
- Fencing along the south side of the easement has been completed, keeping the Public Works Yard secure.

- Work on the water line has begun, and work on the conduit for power and telecommunications will begin soon.
- Students at the High School are continuing their work constructing components of the huts, which will later be assembled on site after the site is graded, graveled, and fenced.
- FAC is working with a local contractor to schedule the transfer of the City Hall Annex building to the site.
- As directed by the Council, staff are seeking community input and assistance regarding the relocation of the old railroad depot building, which currently sits partially in the easement area. Currently, the building is not hampering any work—site development can continue for the time being. The building will need to be moved in order to complete the roadway.
- The Sweet Home School District is generously helping with the creation of a promotional video of the development of the site. Staff are looking for City officials and other involved parties who are willing to talk on camera about the project.
- Staff are assisting FAC with gathering applications for people interested in serving on the site Policy Board. The Community Health Committee will be reviewing applications and making recommendations to FAC's board.
- FAC is developing draft rules for the site that will be modified by the Policy Board once the board is established.

The Challenge/Problem:

How does the City address the impacts of homelessness in a way that meets the needs of the housed, unhoused, and business community, while still following case law and State statutes?

Stakeholders:

- Sweet Home Residents – Residents deserve a neat, clean, and orderly city. Unsheltered residents need a place to sleep and keep warm.
- Sweet Home Businesses – Local businesses deserve a city in which they can operate their businesses and serve customers in the community without the negative impacts that typically accompany homelessness.
- Sweet Home City Council – Council members are the voice of the citizens they serve and represent and are responsible for agreements made with other organizations.
- City of Sweet Home Staff – City Staff need to be able to enforce Sweet Home ordinances but are prevented from doing so by court decisions and State law. In addition, Staff need authorization from the Council regarding the proposed cooperation with FAC.
- Family Assistance and Resource Center Group – FAC desires to serve the unsheltered and others in the community and would like to cooperate with the City to do this.

Issues and Financial Impacts:

At this time, there are no financial impacts beyond what has already been approved.

Elements of a Stable Solution:

N/A. No council action is requested at this time. This document is informational only.

Options:

N/A. No council action is requested at this time. This document is informational only.

Recommendation:

None.