



REQUEST FOR COUNCIL ACTION

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

Preferred Agenda: October 11, 2022

Submitted By: Blair Larsen, Community & Economic Development Director

Reviewed By: Kelcey Young, 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.

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.

October Update:

- The City and FAC continue to meet once a week to coordinate the development.
- Public Works staff have completed 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.

- Public Works has completed work on a water line in the easement, as well as conduit for power and telecommunications.
- Pacific Power has extended an electrical line to the site, through conduit installed by the City.
- FAC is working with the High School to move completed huts to the site, and complete construction of additional huts.
- FAC is working with a local contractor to schedule the transfer of the City Hall Annex building to the site.
- The Council recently voted to demolish 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, which will take place when Linn County develops their neighboring property. City Staff continue to receive feedback from the public regarding the building—there is continued interest in saving it, but no funding offered to do so.
- The Sweet Home School District created a promotional video of the development of the huts and will be creating additional photo and video documentation of the site.
- FAC has developed draft rules for the site that are intended to be a “living document” and modified from time to time by the Policy Board.

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.