



# CITY OF SWEET HOME COMMUNITY HEALTH MINUTES

January 24, 2024, 4:00 PM  
Sweet Home City Hall, 3225 Main Street  
Sweet Home, OR 97386

## Mission Statement

The City of Sweet Home will work to build an economically strong community with an efficient and effective local government that will provide infrastructure and essential services to the citizens we serve. As efficient stewards of the valuable assets available, we will be responsive to the community while planning and preparing for the future.

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## Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 PM.

## Roll Call

PRESENT

Committee Member Dr. Larry Horton  
Committee Member Dick Knowles  
Committee Member Bob Dalton  
Committee Member Kelsey Ann Wray  
Committee Member Shirley Schumacher

## CITY COUNCIL

Mayor Susan Coleman

## STAFF

Kelcey Young, City Manager  
Adam Leisinger, Communications Manager  
Sean Morgan, Community Services Officer  
Cecily Hope Pretty, Administrative Services Director

## New Business:

- a) Committee History Review

Mayor Coleman stated that codification of the Ad Hoc Committee on Community Health was pending and encouraged members to submit committee applications to be considered through formal appointment process.

Discussion ensued regarding residency requirements for the codified committee. There was consensus that the residency requirements should be waived in order to attract community health expertise.

Mayor Coleman requested that the committee provide regular reports to City Council once codified. She reviewed the proposed duties of the codified committee.

No action was required for this item.

b) Future Direction & Goal Setting

Mayor Coleman stated that the committee was established on an ad hoc basis in January 2016 when access to healthcare services in Sweet Home was limited. She noted that the initial goals of the committee had been accomplished and that the committee would seek additional community input on future goals.

No action was required for this item.

Mayor Coleman noted that items c through k served as potential goals for the committee's future work and requested a discussion by committee members.

- c) Potential Town Hall Meetings
- d) Annual Health Fair
- e) Health Agency Recruitment
- f) Health Insurance Public Awareness Campaign
- g) Local Senior Citizen Support and Outreach
- h) Affordable Housing
- i) Chronic Health Issues in Sweet Home - Diabetes, Alcoholism & Drug Addiction
- j) Mental Health Agency Recruitment
- k) Suicide Prevention

Committee Member Dalton recommended the inclusion of suicide prevention and chronic health issues in future town halls. He stated that affordable housing was a critical component of community health but its consideration may be better suited for other entities. He noted issues in the community with access to insurance and information.

Committee Member Horton suggested collaboration with medical students.

Committee Member Schumacher spoke of her work at the Sweet Home Senior Center and requested committee input on suggestion to expand programming and access. She noted a large number of people utilizing local food bank resources.

Officer Morgan noted the large impact of mental health and drug abuse on the community. He highlighted the importance of building relationships to encourage positive, incremental change.

Committee Member Wray expressed support for a health insurance public awareness campaign and noted that many people did not know they were eligible to receive available services. She noted concerns with early drug addiction and the importance of education at local schools, including discussions regarding fentanyl, mental health, and suicide prevention.

Committee Member Knowles asked that the committee provide support to individuals in new or transitional housing. He recommended dental hygiene kits for local students.

City Manager Young described progress on construction of emergency family housing. She noted efforts to improve the Jim Riggs Community Center for operation as an emergency shelter and to obtain an oxygen truck. She requested that the committee serve as and solicit volunteers to assist during emergencies and ensure residents were aware of available resources. She stated that a database was needed to provide contact information of those who may need emergency transport in emergency situations. She noted that staff was investigating the process for Sweet Home to become the first Autism Certified City in Oregon. She highlighted the potential availability of funds to construct a fitness park.

Committee Member Dalton noted that many community churches could provide volunteer assistance.

Mayor Coleman summarized committee consensus regarding goals as follows: health insurance public awareness, alcoholism and drug issues; mental health and suicide prevention. She noted that the Community Health Fair would not be included as a formal goal due to its consistent, ongoing nature. She noted that each of the proposed goals could benefit from a targeted town hall. She added that the committee was tasked with conducting an inventory of existing community health resources and compiling a report for City Council.

No action was required for this item.

**Consideration of Future Meetings – 4/24, 7/24, 10/23**

Mayor Coleman asked committee members to reach out to community partners mentioned during the discussion regarding presentations at future meetings. Discussion ensued regarding the logistics for future town halls.

Discussion ensued regarding increasing the frequency of meetings from quarterly to monthly. There was committee consensus to meet on the fourth Wednesday of each month with the next meeting to take place on February 28, 2024.

No action was required for this item.

**Adjournment**

There being no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 5:28 PM.

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Chair

ATTEST:

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City Manager, Ex Officio City Recorder