

EUGENE CITY COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY



Work Session: Opportunity Village Eugene Pilot Program

Meeting Date: September 10, 2014
Department: Planning & Development
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Agenda Item: A
Staff Contact: Michael Wisth
Contact Telephone Number: 541-682-5540

ISSUE STATEMENT

The City's agreement with Opportunity Village Eugene (OVE) permitting use of the Public Works Maintenance site at 111 N Garfield for micro-housing development to assist homeless individuals is due to sunset on October 1, 2014. At this work session, staff will present an overview of the micro-housing program, preliminary outcomes and a recommendation to extend the program for an additional year to October 1, 2015.

BACKGROUND

On December 10, 2012, the council passed the motion to authorize the City Manager to take the steps necessary to locate a pilot project for a low-cost micro-housing project for homeless individuals at a City-owned property located at 111 N. Garfield Street for a period ending October 1, 2014.

To date, OVE has hosted 58 individuals on the site. OVE currently hosts 33 people in 29 residential units consisting of 20 small bungalows and nine Conestoga huts. The site hosts a number of community spaces and infrastructure, such as showers, a communal kitchen, raised garden beds and a community space with computer access.

OVE has served a diverse number of people over the past year. The attached staff report (Attachment A) highlights a number of outcomes that have been monitored through the program's first year including site and resident characteristics.

The OVE program has attracted considerable attention both regionally and nationally and has recently been highlighted by CNN as a "Better By Design" for reinventing shared spaces. Many other communities, such as Madison, Wisconsin, and Austin, Texas, have developed programs modeled after OVE. Additionally, the City has received positive feedback related to the operation of OVE from surrounding neighborhood groups and residents.

Due to the early positive outcomes of the program, the potential for the continued development of the program and community support, the council is being asked to consider a one-year extension of the City's operating agreement with OVE.

RELATED CITY POLICIES

- Eugene Code 4.815 Prohibited Camping, and Eugene Code 4.816 Permitted Camping.
- Council goal for a safe community: A community where all people are safe, valued and welcome, including desired outcomes for decreased property crime, a greater sense of safety, visible and accessible police presence, and better police/community relations.

COUNCIL OPTIONS

The council may choose to extend the sunset date of the existing operating agreement, or allow the operating agreement to sunset on October 1th, 2015.

CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION

The City Manager recommends extending the existing operating agreement to October 1, 2015.

SUGGESTED MOTION

I move to authorize the City Manager to extend the City's existing operating agreement with Opportunity Village Eugene to October 1, 2015.

ATTACHMENTS

- A. Staff Report on OVE
- B. OVE Operating Agreement

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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