

EUGENE CITY COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY



Approval of Extension of Opportunity Village Temporary Use Period

Meeting Date: May 23, 2016
Department: Central Services
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Agenda Item: 3D
Staff Contact: Michael Kinnison
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ISSUE STATEMENT

The City's agreement with Opportunity Village Eugene (OVE) permitting use of the Public Works Maintenance site at 111 North Garfield for micro-housing development to assist homeless individuals is due to sunset on June 1, 2016. Staff are recommending an extension of the sunset date for an additional two years through June 1, 2018.

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 North Garfield Street for a period ending October 1, 2014. On September 10, 2014 the council passed a motion extending the temporary use period to June 1, 2016.

Highlights From 2015

OVE has capacity to house up to 45 people in 30 residential units consisting of a mix of small bungalows and 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 served a total of 49 people last year, 15 of whom were new residents in 2015. New residents were primarily "local," with all but two of those entering from the Eugene/Springfield area. A majority were non-Hispanic (14), white (11), female (nine) and between ages 25 - 54 (nine). Six new residents reported some type of disability. Thirteen individuals that departed OVE in 2015 were known to have transitioned to improved housing situations such as an apartment, permanent supportive housing or into homes of family and friends.

The OVE program continues to attract considerable attention both regionally and nationally and has served as a model for other communities looking for creative solutions to address homelessness. In 2015, officials from Medford, Salem, Bend, Boulder and Tucson visited the site and OVE representatives presented at a TEDx conference in Salem, the City Club of Eugene and the "Build Small, Live Large" conference in Portland. 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 neighbors and businesses.

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 temporary use period authorizing OVE, or allow it to sunset on June 1, 2016.

CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION

The City Manager recommends extending the temporary use period through June 1, 2018.

SUGGESTED MOTION

I move to authorize the City Manager to extend the temporary use period for Opportunity Village Eugene through June 1, 2018.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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