



Steering Committee Meeting Agenda

Wednesday, April 24, 2024 | 4:00 pm - 5:30 pm
HRDC, District IX Livingston Office, 121 S 2nd Second Street

- 4:00 - 4:10 p.m. **Review of March meeting and follow-up items**
- 4:10 - 4:30 p.m. **Debrief ADU Financing Seminar**
- 4:30 - 5:15 p.m. **Part 2 discussion of public participation in PCHC SC meetings**
- 5:15 - 5:25 p.m. **Give-a-Hoot Plan**
- 5:25 - 5:30 p.m. **Closing and next steps**

Ground Rules

Respect Each Other

Listening is important
One person speaks at a time (no interrupting)

Respect the Group

Make your points succinctly
Everyone has a right to talk

It's OK to Disagree – Agreeably

Challenge ideas, not people
No “zingers” or cheap shots
Disagreement is an opportunity to learn

Keep the Conversation Constructive

Speak from your experience
Explain your reasoning
Keep an open mind

Steering Committee Contact

First Name:

Gloria

Message:

I think your survey statistics are lacking. I have lived in Park County for 42 years. I am an intelligent, well-informed person who was very active in the '80s, '90s, and early 2000s in the community. In the last 20 years, I haven't bothered to fill out surveys or participate because no one is, nor indeed has, asked those of us that are lower income and struggling for basic needs of housing, utilities, and food what constitutes our "real" world. I own a home I built, make less than \$20,000 per year including Social Security, and will likely have to sell within the next two years and leave Montana for a more affordable location. Thankfully, I don't want, or need to be wined and dined. If I haven't bothered to offer input, you can bet there are many, many others who have not. While well-meaning, I have researched the committees, staff, and board members and see that they are loaded with middle to upper, upper (duplicate intended) income people who don't go to the places where they will hear low-income opinions. They don't bother to ask people on the street or in non-gourmet bars and restaurants how their lives are affected. And many of us just stay home and do the best we can. Funding repeated studies is the oh-so-convenient expenditure, supports an existing hypothesis, and does nothing to aid the situation that exists, and has existed for many years in Park County. It merely satisfies the well-heeled committee and community conscience, but really lends nothing tangible for those that are low income and need help yesterday. Sincerely, [REDACTED] Thiede

Last Name:

Thiede

Email:

[REDACTED]@gmail.com

On Thu, Mar 28, 2024 at 11:37 AM Katherine Daly <kdaly@thehrdc.org> wrote:

Good afternoon, [REDACTED]

Thank you very much for taking the time to share your thoughts with the Park County Housing Coalition via our online comment form. I have attached your comment to this email, in case you'd like a copy of what we received.

Last week, I shared your attached comment with the steering committee by including it in our meeting packet, and we discussed your letter yesterday afternoon during our monthly meeting. You expressed several different concerns in your email, and I want to take time to address each of them. So, I apologize in advance for this email being a bit long.

First and foremost, all of our steering committee members recognize and understand your frustration and disappointment at feeling unseen and left behind by the Coalition's work. It sounds like you feel that the lives, interests, and needs of Park County residents who are making substantially less than the median income are not only unrepresented but also unconsidered by our efforts.

It also sounds like you are facing the very difficult decision to leave your home and community due to financial reasons. Our hearts go out to you. Displacement of you and other community members is a serious and real concern that the Coalition's steering committee has recognized as a priority for our work. We are starting to explore what that would look like and how it could complement and expand on existing resources.

If you would like to learn about existing programs that might be able to help you make extra room in your budget, please reach out to my colleagues at HRDC, Andi Salsbury (asalsbury@thehrdc.org, 406-585-4855) and Lisa Wesley (lwesley@thehrdc.org, 406-333-2537). They can help you connect to resources that could lower the costs of some of your basic needs (e.g., food, utilities, and medical expenses). They also might be able to identify opportunities for mortgage and property tax assistance. Lisa is currently out of the office through April 8th, so if you would like to connect with someone right away, I recommend reaching out to Andi. They are both lovely.

If you have ideas for projects and programs that might really help you or folks you know in similar situations, please let us know. Alternatively, if you feel comfortable sharing more of your story, I am sure there are lessons we can learn that will help us support you and other community members who are earning significantly less than the median household income.

I am also hearing that you are disappointed with and frustrated by the composition of the Coalition's leadership team. It sounds like that frustration stems from your expectation that our steering committee either does not have experiences with poverty, displacement, housing instability, and homelessness or

does not have friends and family who have had those experiences. I wish I could say that these experiences are so rare that we have been insulated from them. Unfortunately, that is not the case. I will not speak for my steering committee; their experiences are not mine to share. But please know that among them your experience isn't unknown, unfamiliar, or unimportant.

Last but not least, your email references a survey. I want to be clear that the Park County Housing Coalition has not conducted a study of community housing needs since 2021 and we are not prioritizing more community-wide studies and surveys. Our focus from now on is implementing the 2022 Park County Housing Action Plan in ways that meet our community's needs.

The couple of statistics I shared at recent public meetings are published annually by the US Census Bureau; I was able to look up those numbers online. By sharing these figures, I intended to provide a very general "snapshot" of Park County's housing market. I can understand why hearing us report that the median household income among homeowners is \$86,190 would feel very out of step with where you are. That median figure simply represents the midpoint among Park County home-owning households, in which half of home-owning households earn more and half earn less. If we look a little closer at US Census data, we get a clearer picture. For example, we know that roughly 15% of Park County residents earn \$25,000 annually or less. We also know that more than 500 homeowners are estimated to earn less than \$19,999 annually. I only share this to illustrate that you're not invisible in the data the Coalition is using to guide our work.

Please do reach out if you have ideas for the Coalition's programming, would like to share more of your story, and/or if you have other questions or concerns you'd like to discuss.

If you choose to reach out to my colleagues at HRDC, I hope you are able to connect with some resources that will help you stay in your home.

Thank you again for taking the time to email us.

Kindly,

Katherine

On Thu, Mar 28, 2024 at 12:29 PM [REDACTED] wrote:

Thank you, Katherine

I am well-aware of, and have taken advantage of several programs that exist in the low-income arena, including the Property Tax Assistance program, HRDC heating assistance in the past for a couple of years of extreme need, and the Bozeman Food Co-op's in-house EATS program with the stated mission: "Our EATS program was created with a simple premise: everyone deserves to have access to healthy food regardless of income." If only for-profit grocery stores were as helpful. The federal SNAP program is abysmal in practice, funds, and makes purchasing lowest common denominator food quality the default.

I was graciously assisted 100% in a major medical expense a few years ago by the Billings Hospital in-house assistance program, something Livingston HealthCare only partially provided and for which I make monthly payments toward; and federally standardized help was not available.

I will say that I do not use services for any longer than necessary, I do private tithing and donating, and I leave available resources for food, medical, housing, and utilities to those in greater need. Both professionally, and personally, I know the value of working with people to help them with resolving financial burdens.

My frustration is longstanding and for the past 50 years I have hoped this country, not specifically Park County, would stop using the "median" statistic for evaluations. The increasing sound bite environment uses it as their only bar.


Thank you for allowing me to air my opinions.

I am glad that your committee runs the gambit, I appreciate your efforts, and I hope that the needs of the local community are being met by them.

Best regards, [REDACTED]

IAP2 Spectrum of Public Participation

IAP2's Spectrum of Public Participation was designed to assist with the selection of the level of participation that defines the public's role in any public participation process. The Spectrum is used internationally, and it is found in public participation plans around the world.

INCREASING IMPACT ON THE DECISION 					
	INFORM	CONSULT	INVOLVE	COLLABORATE	EMPOWER
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION GOAL	To provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the problem, alternatives, opportunities and/or solutions.	To obtain public feedback on analysis, alternatives and/or decisions.	To work directly with the public throughout the process to ensure that public concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered.	To partner with the public in each aspect of the decision including the development of alternatives and the identification of the preferred solution.	To place final decision making in the hands of the public.
PROMISE TO THE PUBLIC	We will keep you informed.	We will keep you informed, listen to and acknowledge concerns and aspirations, and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.	We will work with you to ensure that your concerns and aspirations are directly reflected in the alternatives developed and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.	We will look to you for advice and innovation in formulating solutions and incorporate your advice and recommendations into the decisions to the maximum extent possible.	We will implement what you decide.

Wednesday, April 24, 2024 Agenda

Park County Housing Coalition Steering Committee

4:00 pm - 5:30 pm | HRDC, District IX Livingston Office, 121 S 2nd Second Street

MEETING MINUTES

Present: Kris, Becky Miller, Grant Gager, Geoff Anderson, Carrie Holder, Hannah Wologo, Jamie Isaly, Kris Smith

Staff: Katherine Daly, Barb Oldershaw

Virtual: Sam Ricketts, Lila Fleishman (staff)

Regrets: Tawnya Rupe-Mraz

- **Welcome Back** (10 min) 4:00 - 4:10
 - **Review of March meeting**
 - Discussed our first letter from a community member
 - Started discussing options for public participation in these meetings
 - Broached the topic of a housing impact fund.
 - **Purpose of today's meeting**
 - Debrief ADU Financing Seminar
 - Continue to consider options for public participation in these meetings
 - Make a plan for Give-a-Hoot
 - **Updates since March meeting**
 - New HUD income limits published in early April. I will send those out to you with the meeting minutes.
 - Fundraising & Partnerships
 1. We won the \$10K grant application to the Federal Home Loan Bank program, in conjunction with Opportunity Bank.
 2. Our grant request to the Montana HealthCare Foundation is in process.
 3. We will talk about Give-a-Hoot today.
 4. LBID wants to collaborate with us via what they're calling a "Housing Hero" program for folks or businesses who participate in PCHC programs; specifically, those who contribute to the supply of housing our community members can afford. Kris said they can pay Eubank Creative for design and help underwrite any printing costs, plus donate a reusable tumbler and coordinate Hometown Hero Discounts to local businesses.
 - Continued correspondence w. Park County resident who reached out to the SC
 1. leaning into conflict can help people feel seen and heard
 2. leaning into conflict can help build mutual understanding/address misunderstandings
 3. sometimes it's not clear what the source of a conflict is/it's helpful not to assume you know what the source of a conflict is
 4. leaning into conflict can create pathways for future partnership and collaboration
 5. Group discussion of these ideas.
 - First EAHP meeting tomorrow with a business owner in leisure and hospitality
 - **This session's consensus-building tip** (2 minutes)
 - It is possible to make conflict productive!
- **ADU Financing Seminar Debrief** (20 Min) 4:13 - 4:30
 - Total of just under 40 people, panelists and volunteers included
 - Panelists: Becky M., Brooke W., Chris R., Cody W., Mark P., Wyeth W.
 - Volunteers: Lila, Jamie, Sam, Barb, and Rick Simkins (HRDC Com. Dev.)

Wednesday, April 24, 2024 Agenda

Park County Housing Coalition Steering Committee

- We've got three recordings of varying quality that will be knitted together into a decent-quality recording and posted on our website
- Almost all of the panelists agreed to share their contact information with PCHC email subscribers, so folks can reach out to them with questions.
- Group discussion of what went well and not so well.
- Group discussion of follow up/next Steps?
- Discussion continued with specific questions related to ADUs.
- **Continued Discussion on Public Participation in SC Meetings** (45 min) 4:42 - 5:15
 - Prioritization exercise in Menti of the goals/opportunities associated with public participation for SC meetings ID'd by SC members during March meeting.
 - Group discussion
- **Give-a-Hoot Plan** (10 min) 5:17 - 5:25
 - We will not ask members to donate to the PCHC this year. Our programs aren't ready for community funding.
 - Alternatives:
 - **Option 1:** We don't actively participate in Give-a-Hoot at all. We will still receive Livingston HealthCare's donation via Give-a-Hoot to take advantage of the match, as well as other folks who express interest in donating to the PCHC.
 - **Option 2:** We accept donations passively *and* send an email to PCHC subscribers encouraging them to support organizations that serve those who are experiencing homelessness and housing instability (e.g., HRDC, Livingston Food Resource Center, ASPEN, Southwest Chemical Dependency Program, Gardiner Food Pantry)
 - Unanimous support for Option 2.
 - Two PCHC SC members will propose an initial list of Park County orgs. to support.
- **Closing & Next Steps** (10 min) - 5:20
 - The group unanimously decides to skip the Wednesday, May 29th meeting and move the June meeting to Wednesday, June 12, 2024.