

Housing and Human Resources Commission 2024 Report

Mission: *The mission of the Lyons Housing & Human Services Commission (HHSC), as established in the Lyons Recovery Action Plan, is to provide coordination and communication with various private, non- profit, and county entities in an effort to assess and fill the gaps in human service provision and identify unmet needs in the Lyons and greater Lyons (80540) area.*

2024 Activities/Accomplishments/Issues

- **Mission**

In responding to several housing issues in 2024 the HHSC realized that housing was not included in either the mission statement nor in the Municipal Code for HHSC. Proposed revisions to both will be submitted to the Board of Trustees in first quarter 2025.

- **Housing**

Lyons Valley Townhomes (LVT)

With LVT home construction completed (landscaping is in-process), residents sought the support of HHSC in establishing a positive and cooperative communication with Highland Property Management. The HHSC gathered information from residents and presented a statement of resident support and a request to the Board of Trustees asking for their involvement in developing a plan for better communication between residents and management. At present the HHSC Chair meets with the property manager periodically to get updates regarding housing availability and resident-management relations. Both HHSC and Board of Trustee influence is limited in this issue.

Preserving what affordable housing is available

A HHSC representative attended Board of Trustee workshops on housing issues in 2024 and shared during regular meetings the HHSC concern that while complying with Proposition 123 (building new housing) is important, equally important is preserving what affordable housing is available. In learning more regarding resources, the HHSC met with the Boulder County Housing Authority (BCHA) to better understand their many roles in housing development and maintenance. The HHSC was overjoyed to learn that BCHA is in the process of buying a 14-unit mobile home park in Lyons that was in danger of being sold for private development.

- **Responding to Community Needs – Human Services**

In addition to receiving input from community members regarding their needs, the HHSC identified the need to effectively disseminate information regarding relevant resources available. To that end the HHSC has provided updates in the Redstone Review regarding utility bill support available through Town of Lyons as well as State of Colorado, Healthy Home Assessment Program through Boulder County Public Health and presence of a new local health care provider.

In December HHSC partnered with the Town of Lyons to sponsor a Connect for Health CO insurance enrollment event that connected several households with both private insurance and Medicaid information.

Updating the Get Help Guide (last published in 2021) has been a major undertaking that involved every HHSC member. The plan is for a limited printed version, placement on the Town of Lyons web site as well as possibly hard-copies of Senior Services section.

The HHSC identified a need for Disaster Preparedness information and to-go backpacks especially for seniors and those with special needs who might be challenged to evacuate. HHSC received a grant

through Lyons Community Foundation for the backpacks and will partner with Lyons Regional Library and Boulder County Office of Emergency Management for a presentation of relevant information and distribution of backpacks in April 2025.

- **Responding to Town of Lyons Board of Trustee requests for involvement and/or input**

*Reported progress and priorities of Comprehensive Plan Goals for HHSC (HN – 1c, HN 2a, HW1a, HW1f)

* Reported HHSC priorities for Proposition 123

* Reported priorities for Housing Future Report

* Reported HHSC activities directly to the Board of Trustees

- **Member update**

The HHSC has a strong group of dedicated volunteers. During 2024 we lost two: one to serve on another commission and a second due to increased work load. We added 2 new members: Yves Nath who is involved in housing issues and Fi Houle a resident of Lyons Valley Townhomes. This leaves us with two vacant positions. We include our need for members in our updates for the Redstone Review and in other venues.

Plans for 2025

- **Housing.**

- Continue to facilitate resident-management relations at Lyons Valley Townhomes
- Continue to encourage Town of Lyons involvement in preserving what affordable housing we currently have
- Coordinate with “partner” commissions on shared Comprehensive Plan goals, sharing activities and priorities.

- **Mental Health**

HHSC will support and publicize the mental health services available.

HHSC will learn about mental health services available in Boulder County and make the community aware of them.

- **Continue to respond to Community Inquiries and Needs**

- Explore additional ways to create awareness about the housing and human services available to residents

The Housing and Human Services Commission meets on the second Monday of each month from 4:30 - 6 pm in the Effie Banta conference room at the Lyons Community Library (a zoom link is available as well). The public is always welcome to attend. There are currently two vacancies on the commission; interested residents can apply through the Town of Lyons website or inquiring at Town Hall.

HHSC members:

Kay Sparks, Chair

Yves Nath -Vice-Chair

Claudia Kean, scribe

Rhonda Vandenbos

Fi Houle

Tanya Daty - Board of Trustees liaison

Lisa Ramsey - Town staff liaison