



# CITY OF TROUTDALE

## Citizens Advisory Committee

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### MEETING AGENDA

**Wednesday, November 4, 2020 | 7:00 p.m.**

Troutdale Police Community Center – Kellogg Room

234 SW Kendall Ct – Troutdale, OR 97060

Public comments are welcome at any time during the meeting.

1. **Call to Order, Roll Call, & Pledge of Allegiance**
2. **Public Comment**
3. **Review & Approval of Minutes**
  - i. September 2, 2020 Meeting Minutes
  - ii. October 7, 2020 Meeting Minutes
4. **Discussion Items**
  - i. Ordinance on Chickens
  - ii. CAC Website Updates
  - iii. Rent-Burdened Meeting
5. **Department Report**
6. **Committee Comments**
7. **Adjourn**

#### Next Regular Meeting:

**Wednesday, December 2, 2020 | 7:00 p.m. | Troutdale Police Community Center**

Due to safety precautions regarding COVID-19, there will be a limit on public attendance in the Kellogg Room. The meeting will also be held virtually via Zoom. If members of the public wish to join, please email [amber.shackelford@troutdaleoregon.gov](mailto:amber.shackelford@troutdaleoregon.gov) for a link to the meeting.

This meeting location is accessible to persons with disabilities. A request for an interpreter for the hearing impaired or for other accommodations for persons with disabilities should be made at least 48 hours prior to the meeting to the Planning Division ([planning@troutdaleoregon.gov](mailto:planning@troutdaleoregon.gov) or 503-665-5175)

**Citizens Advisory Committee Minutes**  
**Wednesday, September 2, 2020 | 7:00 p.m.**  
Held virtually via Zoom

Public comments are welcome at any time during the meeting.

**1. Call to Order, Roll Call, & Pledge of Allegiance**

Present: Sam Barnett  
David Wheaton  
Kyle Schwab  
Shelly Reynolds  
Victoria Rizzo  
Alexander Lumiere  
Chris Barney  
Will Knight (Chair)

Absent: Timothy Erich  
Jon Brown  
Diane Castillo

Staff: Arini Farrell  
Amber Shackelford  
Melissa Bocarde, Independent Contractor/Transcriptionist

Members of  
the Public: Heidi Hinshaw  
Bernard Herron  
Brandon Mueller

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Schwab at 7:05 p.m.

Ms. Farrell stated that according to Troutdale Municipal Code 2.20.050, if a committee member is unable to attend the meeting, they need to let the Chair or staff liaison know they wish to be excused. If there isn't time to do so ahead of the meeting date, they need to notify someone no later than four hours before the day of the meeting itself. After three consecutive meeting absences, the position will be considered vacant and the CAC will vote whether to remove that person and, if there is an alternate, to move that person into the permanent position. Members can also resign at any time.

Chair Knight said he appreciated the reminder. While it's tough to get motivated to attend a Zoom meeting, it's still important to let someone know if they'll be absent. He asked Ms. Farrell if when there are three consecutive absences, the Chair is able to choose whether to bring forward a vacancy vote to establish that this position is closed. Ms. Farrell said yes, and that excused absences count as absences.

Mr. Barnett asked if special meetings are included, and Ms. Farrell answered that they are since they're still public meetings where decisions need to be made. However, the CAC can choose not to move forward with votes on vacancies.

## 2. Public Comment

Mr. Schwab recognized Brandon Mueller from Troutdale. He stated that he lives in the Sweetbriar neighborhood, and he has noticed that many people walk in the streets instead of on the sidewalks, and this is a problem.

Mr. Barnett said that when he walks his dogs, they don't use the sidewalks in order to avoid stray cats living in the bushes. Mr. Mueller answered that he would personally rather run into a stray cat rather than get hit by a car. He has been urging neighbors to use the sidewalks.

Chair Knight thanked Mr. Mueller for attending the meeting and bringing up this topic. He asked if Mr. Mueller belongs to an HOA or neighborhood association. Mr. Mueller answered that there is an HOA, and his neighborhood also contains green spaces and trails. However, his comments pertain to activity on the public road, not an HOA road. Chair Knight suggested he ask the HOA about including it in their newsletter and seeing if other neighbors recognize this as an issue. Ms. Hinshaw thanked Mr. Mueller for being there. She asked if he'd tried asking people why they didn't use the sidewalks. He answered that he'd tried but relations were starting to deteriorate. He also expressed his surprise that there weren't more members of the public attending the CAC meeting.

Mr. Barnett said that, first, he also lives in the Sweetbriar neighborhood, and they are not part of a neighborhood association. Second, some residents allow dogs to roam without leashes and so people don't feel safe walking on the sidewalks. Third, there are many sidewalks that aren't safe to walk on because there are tree roots growing through them.

Ms. Farrell said she hasn't heard complaints about the sidewalks, but they belong to different jurisdictions. For example, the Columbia River Highway is actually owned by Multnomah County.

Mr. Mueller said he had another public safety question. He said he still sees Troutdale-marked police cars. He asked if there are dedicated police officers from the County Sheriff's office for Troutdale or if they float around the County. Ms. Farrell answered that the City does have one specific community resource officer. Mr. Schwab said that some of the County officers used to be Troutdale police and know the area, and the official City resource officer worked for the Troutdale Police Department for a long time.

Mr. Mueller said his other concern is that if you're coming down the Buxton Road hill near the police station, it's difficult to see if there are cyclists so that you can safely pull out into traffic. Ms. Farrell said she had the same issue when driving home in the dark because of the elevation. She suggested bringing this to the City Council.

## 3. Review & Approval of Minutes

### i. August 5, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Chair Knight had a typographical change on page 4. There were no other changes.

**Ms. Reynolds moved to approve the minutes, and Ms. Rizzo seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

#### 4. Discussion Items

##### i. Public Safety in Troutdale

Mr. Schwab said that at the previous meeting, the group reviewed police call data and discussed what public safety in Troutdale means for us besides policing. He asked if the group wanted to keep this as an ongoing agenda item or what they wished to do next.

Ms. Hinshaw said that there's a public safety committee listed on the City's web site that hasn't met in a long time, and she asked if anyone knew the history of that. Chair Knight said he was appointed to this committee about a year after the merger between the city police and county sheriffs, and it was meant to be a liaison committee to help with the transition. They mainly helped with community outreach like National Night Out in Wood Village and with a December toy drive sponsored by the Multnomah County Sheriff's Department. Aside from that, there are many months when the committee didn't meet and it seems to have disbanded.

Mr. Schwab said that Paul Wilcox had sent a transcript from a recent Council meeting where there was discussion about restarting the committee. Ms. Farrell said that had been discussed as part of the Council's goals but it hasn't been finalized.

Ms. Hinshaw said that she attended a listening session for the City of Gresham where residents called in, and she'd like to see the CAC sponsor something similar.

Chair Knight said that he was disappointed that the Hope Team was defunded on July 1 and would like to suggest to the City Council that it be resurrected. Second, he would like to learn how the 32,134 contacts made compares to other similarly sized cities and whether that is low, high, or on par with them. He would also like to see a survey asking how safe residents feel and if they feel there are hot zones for certain crimes. It would be interesting to see how it correlates to where the calls originate from.

Mr. Schwab commented that the Hope Team has been on the chopping block for several years since the deputies supporting it were reassigned to regular patrol. Also, it is a relatively expensive program with not a lot of good outcome measures to use every February to justify its existence compared to the number of people served by other homeless outreach programs.

Regarding the survey and hearing resident voices, he feels that amid the criminal justice reform conversations are happening without residents from East Multnomah County and unincorporated areas at the table. Ms. Hinshaw said she would want to be sure of how to disseminate it in an equitable manner, including input from community members who say they don't feel safe with the police. She added that she has a neighbor who has mental health issues and since there is only one dedicated officer in Troutdale paid for by the City, this means he would not be known to police who float around the entire County. Mr. Schwab agreed that it was unfortunate for local police to not be personally invested in serving their neighbors.

Mr. Wheaton said that while he appreciates the data, his opinion is that it only takes one cog in the law enforcement wheel for people to feel unsafe and for the wheels to come off the wagon, like the District Attorney refusing to prosecute someone. It used to be that police officers were trained, given a gun and expected to use force to ensure that people comply with the community's morals and values. It seems to him that the definition is changing and that now we want everyone to feel good about it. He feels that public safety is under attack as a whole but there doesn't seem to be a replacement. All we want to do is change it without having a plan as to what we're changing it to. For example, if someone is mentally ill and acting out, chances are a deputy will respond to that, but it doesn't have to be a deputy. He is hearing

that society wants to have different people respond to mental health crises, but we don't know how that will happen.

Ms. Hinshaw said there is a pilot program called Portland Street Response that sends a trained person other than a uniformed police officer to people in times of need such as mental health crises. Eugene has a community safety program called Cahoots that has been in place for 30 years and uses trained social workers to diffuse situations. There is also a similar program in Denver. She asked what the process is for community feedback.

Mr. Schwab invited Mr. Herron to join the discussion. Mr. Herron observed that new apartment communities are being built while Troutdale might be getting rid of police officers. He asked if the CAC has any influence on this decision. Mr. Schwab answered that they did not, and he hasn't heard of any official decision about how the sheriff's office will be changing any staffing. There have been calls for City of Gresham Police and the sheriff's office to freeze their hiring, but he doesn't know if they will adhere to that. However, he doesn't think residents' voices are being heard right now, and they should be, perhaps through a virtual conversation.

Mr. Herron asked why the CAC wishes to survey residents and what problems they see. He suggested that while Ms. Hinshaw wants to involve a diverse group of people, perhaps the CAC could start with a survey of 10 questions that is mailed to all of the residents of Troutdale via the regular mail as a start. He asked if that would be possible. Also, while he is not a fan of more taxes, he would be more than willing to pay a local city tax that is used to fund more community officers. That way there are more law enforcement officers who are invested in this community.

Mr. Schwab said that he wasn't sure if the CAC could distribute a large survey in a timely fashion. Mr. Herron asked if they could push this higher up the chain since a vast majority of people support the police. Mr. Lumiere said he also supports a public safety community survey. He did some preliminary internet searches for public safety information for medium-sized towns and found it was difficult to find anything. He did find that public policies for citizens are typically defined, initiated, and executed by the police. He would like to see the citizens say what they want to feel safe.

Ms. Hinshaw said that her last job included organizing mailings to thousands of people and so she wants someone to get paid to do this because it's a big job. She agrees with Mr. Lumiere's comment about residents needing to help design the policies. She suggested advocating for it.

Mr. Wheaton stated that it's important for the community and as a citizen's group to define what public safety means and build from there rather than asking Multnomah County or Portland to make that determination for us. Mr. Schwab said that if Troutdale had its own police department, he would want to bring this issue to them. Mr. Barnett stated that Portland has also been losing police officers that aren't being replaced because of the hiring freeze. Also, citizens have had to help out since the police are so short-staffed. He personally helped direct traffic for 20 minutes after a car accident until a deputy arrived.

Chair Knight asked if the group wanted to invite Commander Gullberg to the next meeting. The previous chief used to visit the CAC quarterly to keep them updated and answer questions. Ms. Hinshaw said she would like to invite firefighters and other first responders instead. She also would like to include public safety people. Mr. Wheaton agreed that public safety is more than the police and fire departments. It includes water safety, pathogen exposure and the sidewalks' conditions. Chair Knight said he would like to start with the police only for now. Mr. Barnett suggested submitting a *Champion* blurb.

Ms. Hinshaw said that she agreed that policing is a flashpoint issue, but public safety is not just about policing. For example, there were no lifeguards on duty at the Sandy River this summer. However, if the discussion is limited to policing, then it should be called that instead of “public safety.”

Chair Knight suggested asking the City Council to resurrect the defunct public safety advisory committee that was focused on the transition from Troutdale police to Multnomah County Sheriff support. The CAC could present a list of public safety items to be considered by the committee.

Mr. Schwab said he agreed that the task of creating and distributing a survey is huge. However, if the CAC brings this to the Council, they would need to debate having a public safety committee, decide what it would look like, advertise it, and it might take six months for it to get started. As a compromise, the CAC could suggest that while also doing some groundwork so they can hit the ground running. And if so, he asked the group to consider what is the groundwork within their capacity. Ms. Hinshaw said she could keep a working list.

Mr. Schwab said that they could start with matters pertaining to the justice system and then move on to other arenas like street and sidewalk safety on the streets or lifeguards at Sandy River. Ms. Hinshaw said that she wasn't sure how much influence they could have over policing since they only have one paid officer. Chair Knight said that the Mayor and City Council could be the direct line to that person, and the Commander could also attend a CAC meeting as their representative. Chair Knight said he would invite Commander Gullberg to the next meeting.

Ms. Rizzo asked Ms. Farrell to confirm if the committee was formally dissolved because if it wasn't, the Council could just resurrect it and the CAC could recruit for members this Fall. Ms. Farrell said she would ask the City Recorder and bring this to the Council so they are aware of the CAC's goals.

Mr. Schwab said he applied for the Public Safety Committee and it never met. Chair Knight said that there wasn't enough staffing from the County to sustain it, but he also thought they did a good job of providing outreach twice a year and that was it. He liked Ms. Rizzo's idea of resurrecting it so that committee can focus solely on public safety unlike the CAC. He asked if the CAC wanted to make this recommendation or have the Staff bring it to Council. Also, the Council makeup will change with November's election, including bringing on a new Mayor on January 1. He suggested gathering more information and inviting Captain Gullberg to the meeting, and having Ms. Farrell report on what the Council is looking at with its new Equity Committee. After that, they can continue discussion and create recommendations for the Council that include public health and not just policing. In the meantime, if the CAC wants to get the groundwork going, we can identify some action steps and research for the Council to use if they decide to put this committee together.

Mr. Schwab said he wondered if the current Council could approve this. Ms. Farrell said that she felt sure this will be talked about even with the election coming up, so it would be useful for the CAC to bring it up to them. That way, there will be incumbents who can be good advocates for the CAC when the Council changes its makeup, and it also means that they can get input out before the Multnomah County Sheriff makes any decisions for Troutdale. Ms. Hinshaw agrees that she feels there is momentum. Mr. Schwab said he'd like to invite Captain Gullberg to the October CAC meeting and make it a goal for that meeting to have a recommendation ready for City Council's October meeting.

Chair Knight said the CAC members can also offer their opinions as members of the public at the Council October meeting when public safety is discussed. He plans to do this and will mention that he is the chair of the CAC but not attending on its behalf. He suggested other CAC members attend. He asked Ms.

Farrell to find out if the Council planned to discuss goals before their next meeting and let them know. Ms. Farrell said that would come from Ms. Shackelford since she is the new CAC liaison.

Mr. Schwab said that if anyone is interested, he has professional expertise to put together a mock timeline for a community outreach project and offer an idea of scoping. He can present this in October.

ii. Special Meeting Follow-Up: Financial Literacy & COVID-19 Relief Resources

**After a brief discussion, Ms. Rizzo moved to table agenda item II and Mr. Barnett seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

iii. Future Meetings

Ms. Rizzo said that the Parks Committee has been meeting at Glenn Otto Park and said she'd like to know if the CAC members would like to do the same. Mr. Schwab asked how everyone would feel about meeting by Zoom or in the Sam Cox building. Ms. Farrell said that meetings should be in the Kellogg Room since the recording technology is set up. Ms. Shackelford said she believed the Kellogg Room can hold a maximum of ten people but she will check. Chair Knight said there can be six people maximum and everyone brings their own laptop.

**Ms. Rizzo moved that the next CAC meeting be a hybrid meeting so those who wish to can zoom in and others can meet in person, up to the number that the City allows. Mr. Barney seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

Ms. Shackelford said she would figure out the logistics involved.

## 5. Department Report

A new Administrative Assistant is being hired who will take over some of the old roles from Ms. Shackelford's past position and also work with the Building division. Staff is also rolling out the new branding onto its documents.

The Park Master Plan RFQ is closed and so is the RFQ for the Sandy River engineering project.

Mr. Barnett asked why event permitting was on the agenda. Ms. Farrell said that the CAC had asked Staff to include it on the agenda, but there is no update.

Mr. Barnett stated that he would like the minutes and agendas mailed to him. Mr. Barney and Chair Knight said they would also.

Mr. Barney asked Ms. Farrell to clarify what is an RFQ and she explained the RFP and RFQ procedure. Basically, it's when Staff issues a request for qualifications (RFQ) for big projects such as the Master Plan from qualified business firms. The Staff evaluates their answers and then moves forward with a request for proposal (RFP) in which the selected consultant creates a package specific to the project itself.

Chair Knight said he would like to add the new branding to the minutes. Second, he asked for a department report on the Top 3 Voting topic that was discussed at length by the CAC recently. He said he heard last night that although the CAC voted 8 to 3 not to put this on the ballot, the City Council decided to put the Star Voting and the Top 3 Voting on the ballot. Mr. Schwab said that according to the City's web page, a petition was filed and received enough signatures. Mr. Barnett said that actually the City

Council heard the CAC's recommendation and then voted to put it on the ballot. He personally chastised them for doing this after the CAC spent a month arriving at its conclusion. Ms. Rizzo said that Star Voting, not Top 3, was added due to a petition.

## 6. Committee Comments

Chair Knight thanked everyone for attending and said he is super excited to be working with everyone. There is a lot on the CAC's plate. He thanked Mr. Schwab and Ms. Hinshaw for their work on financial literacy, and he thanked the members of the public who attended the meeting.

Ms. Reynolds thanked Chair Knight for the suggestion to present public safety as a broader topic since there is too much for the CAC to take on and do it justice. She thanked Mr. Schwab for his work on the web site.

Mr. Barnett thanked everyone for their work.

Ms. Hinshaw asked Ms. Farrell if she could speak about the Community Enhancement program at the next meeting.

Mr. Herron said he appreciated all that the CAC does.

Mr. Barney said he was sorry to have been late.

Mr. Lumiere thanked everyone for their work.

Ms. Rizzo reminded everyone that the Census will end September 30 and to encourage people to submit their forms since Congressional seats and funding are based on the Census results.

## 7. Adjourn

**Mr. Barney moved to adjourn the meeting and Ms. Rizzo seconded. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 9:22 p.m.**

**Next Regular Meeting:  
Wednesday, October 7, 2020 | 7:00 p.m. | Troutdale Police Community Center  
Due to safety precautions regarding COVID-19, the meeting will be held virtually via zoom,  
if members of the public wish to join, please email [amber.shackelford@troutdaleoregon.gov](mailto:amber.shackelford@troutdaleoregon.gov) for a  
link to the meeting.**

# Citizens Advisory Committee Minutes

Wednesday, October 7, 2020 | 7:00 p.m.

Troutdale Police Community Center – Kellogg Room

234 SW Kendall Ct – Troutdale, OR 97060

Held in-person and virtually via Zoom

Public comments are welcome at any time during the meeting.

## 1. Call to Order, Roll Call, & Pledge of Allegiance

Present: Will Knight (Chair)  
David Wheaton  
Shelly Reynolds  
Victoria Rizzo  
Chris Barney  
Jon Brown  
Diane Castillo  
Timothy Erich  
Heidi Hinshaw

Absent: Kyle Schwab

Staff: Arini Farrell  
Amber Shackelford  
Melissa Sillitoe, Independent Contractor/Transcriptionist

Members of  
the Public: Steven Bevens  
Paul Wilcox

## 2. Discussion Items

- i. Public Safety in Troutdale
  - a. Discussion with Captain Steve Bevens, Troutdale Police Chief

Chair Knight introduced and congratulated Troutdale's new Patrol Captain for the Sheriff's office, Steven Bevens. Captain Bevens said he was excited to be serving Troutdale in his new capacity and pleased to be invited to speak at the CAC meeting. He said he hoped that CAC members would feel free to contact him about any concerns. He said that while he is not technically the Chief of Police for Troutdale, per his contract, 67% of his time is devoted to Troutdale.

Chair Knight asked if there were questions for Capt. Bevens. Ms. Castillo said she was very excited that Captain Bevens will be in this role. Capt. Bevens thanked her and said how excited he was to be there.

Mr. Erich asked him how many personnel are available to help him. Capt. Bevens said that the patrol division works out of the Troutdale building and there are two deputies there 24/7 as district cars. Also, Community Resource Deputy Nick Boer works for the department and addresses everything from speed

to livability issue. There is also supervision from 2-3 sergeants on a shift and there are 7-14 deputies on any shift. He feels that if an incident were to occur, Troutdale would be in good shape.

Mr. Erich asked if he had any support personnel in the Troutdale building. Capt. Bevens answered that there is a records unit downstairs with 24/7 staffing and about 10 people work there. Also, evidence for all of the County is kept there, so there are often patrol cars arriving and leaving.

Mr. Erich asked him about what is being done about people camped in the 1000 Acres Park area. Capt. Bevens answered that he had originally helped begin the HOPE team for the Multnomah County Sheriff's Office and knows of its importance firsthand. The HOPE teams currently has two deputies and a sergeant and a lieutenant there. It had been let go for a while and there are now many people camped. Also, his experience is that people camped there do not want to leave to move to shelters in downtown Portland. They are currently working with the Forest Department to offer resources to those wishing to move, but he isn't confident that this will happen. Mr. Erich asked if there was anything the CAC could do and if they would need to coordinate with the federal government units stationed there. Capt. Bevens replied that the federal forestry department relies heavily on his officers and pays them overtime to help.

Chair Knight said that he was happy to hear that the HOPE Team still exists, and Capt. Bevens said that as far as he knows, it does. Chair Knight stated that in a previous meeting, the group discussed recent political events. He asked if these have also been discussed amongst the County and how that will affect Troutdale? Also, will the CAC have a say in decisions? Capt. Bevens answered that the Troutdale contract comprises a large part of the department's budget, and that any customer service concerns from Troutdale residents are important to them.

Ms. Hinshaw asked Capt. Bevens what resources he has available to address mental health crisis calls. Capt. Bevens answered that all new deputies are supposed to participate in a week of crisis intervention training. However, it's been difficult to make this happen during Covid since their resources have been slim. He commented that the real mental health crisis training happens daily.

Also, when officers respond to a call that involves someone having a mental health crisis, they ask Project Respond for assistance. Unfortunately, in East Multnomah County, they're an hour or two away, so it usually falls on deputies to deescalate the situation using their verbal judo tactics. They're also mandated to put them on a "hold" and transport them to the hospital via ambulance. This is required by State law if someone is unable to care for themselves or is a threat to other. When a doctor tells them they need to place someone in custody, this is called a "director's hold."

Ms. Hinshaw asked if these holds meant physical restraint and Capt. Bevens said no, these were not physical, they're a detainment, and officers are mandated by the State to put these people on a hold.

Ms. Hinshaw asked his opinion of the Cahoots model in Eugene in which a civilian unit instead of a uniformed officer is dispatched. Mr. Bevens answered that his daughter is majoring in Social Work and so this is of personal interest to him. He said that from a police officer's standpoint, one of the calls they most dread is when someone is having a mental health crisis and they are called to de-escalate wearing their uniforms and guns, and this sends the wrong message to the person in crisis. He said that when he hears about defunding police, he agrees with not defunding the police but with the need to put money into assistance from unarmed civilians and other programs. However, they don't have that option at the moment in East Multnomah County.

Ms. Hinshaw asked what he felt he and his staff needed to do to make sure all Troutdale residents are treated equally. Capt. Bevens answered that every police department has its own culture and training. For

example, what Multnomah County does is different from Gresham or Portland's training. In regards to what his department does, his officers train daily. There are also DPST and Academy in-services and he feels that more people of color should be involved in these.

Mr. Lumiere asked if the people camped in the woods who don't want to move to shelters in downtown Portland could be offered shelter closer to home, possibly at the empty Kmart store, and what the path would be to opening it as a shelter. Capt. Bevens answered that the property belongs to the City of Portland. Multnomah County does have a unit for the houseless population and maybe the City Council could contact the County Commissioners. Every year since 2000 when it gets cold, the police offer everything to the campers they can, such as tents and clothing, and leave the campers alone.

Ms. Hinshaw thanked him for his remarks and said that as a citizen, she encouraged him to do what he can to get more equity training for his officers and that it might be better received by officers if it's offered from within by peers. She also said that her research has informed her that sweeps kill people so she appreciates that his stand is not to remove campers. She supports the Housing First model. Capt. Bevens said that this was a great question. He was on a forum with the Department of Public Safety and they've discussed BIPOC training. However, they didn't discuss the fact that veterans wouldn't receive the training offered at the Academy. He said that the Sheriff's office hired an Equity Manager a few months ago and he expected a new curriculum around December.

Chair Knight thanked Capt. Bevens for attending and congratulated him on his promotion. Capt. Bevens excused himself, and Chair Knight asked for additional discussion. Ms. Hinshaw said that he had good responses and she looks forward to seeing how things unfold. Mr. Erich said that he'd recently talked to a police officer and was very encouraged that he seemed to be a genuinely caring person who is happy to be working in Troutdale. Chair Knight said that the recent article in the *Champion* contains very useful information about the police department being under fire politically.

Ms. Castillo said that Glenn White (her husband) was recently appointed to the East County Homeless Committee and she believes they may be inviting other representatives soon. She will keep people informed.

Chair Knight asked the group if they would like Capt. Bevens to be on the agenda periodically. Mr. Lumiere said that he would like regular updates, and Mr. Erich said that he thought every six months would work well.

### **3. Public Comment**

Chair Knight asked for public comment. There wasn't any.

### **4. Review & Approval of Minutes**

- i. August 24, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Ms. Shackelford shared the August 24, 2020 minutes on her screen, and Chair Knight and Ms. Rizzo identified corrections to the minutes. Ms. Shackelford made the minutes corrections.

**Mr. Barney made a motion to accept the minutes as amended and Ms. Rizzo seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

ii. September 2, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Chair Knight moved on to the September 2 meeting minutes and identified a correction to the minutes. Ms. Shackelford made the correction. Mr. Barney said that he didn't think he had made the comment on page 2 about walking through the Sweetbriar neighborhood. It was decided that Ms. Sillitoe would check the tape, and the minutes were tabled until November.

**5. Return to Discussion Items**

ii. Changes to Committees and Commissions

Chair Knight reported that Council recently created a working group to review committees and commissions. He thanked Mr. Wilcox for putting together a handout about the meeting. Ms. Shackelford shared slides summarizing the changes on her screen, beginning with "Ordinance 861 – Important changes." These include things like clarifying who serves on the selection committee. For example, if the Chair is up for appointment, they would not serve. If the Chair and Vice Chair were up for election, then someone else would serve. Also, members of a household will not serve on the same committee.

Chair Knight interjected that Sam Barnett resigned from the CAC and he informed Ms. Shackelford and Ms. Farrell. As the alternate, Ms. Hinshaw was asked to move into Mr. Barnett's vacant seat and she'd accepted. Chair Knight welcomed her to the group. He also reached out to the City Attorney and City Manager to clarify if this goes into effect in 30 days and so her appointment falls under the old rules. He is also waiting for clarification concerning if Ms. Hinshaw's term end date stays the same or changes.

Ms. Shackelford returned to the slide presentation. The work group also reviewed application deadlines and late applications. Going forward, if people apply late for positions, they will not be considered until after the candidates that met the deadline. Additionally, no one can Chair more than two committees. Also, equity was added as a consideration to who serves on the Public Safety and Equity Advisory Committee. Also, any committee member that had terms expire at the end of this year will have the term extended to line up with the fiscal year.

The changes most relevant to the CAC include that committee members' terms now expire on June 30<sup>th</sup> of the year their term is set to expire instead of the end of the calendar year. All committee members with terms set to expire at the end of 2020 will have their term expiration dates set to June 30, 2021. Chair Knight commented that this might help volunteer recruitment since it won't coincide with December holidays.

Ms. Shackelford said there was also discussion about the number of members on the CAC and the potential for this change with the Public Safety and Equity Advocacy committee.

Chair Knight asked for comments or questions. Ms. Hinshaw asked if Ms. Shackelford expected the number of CAC members to be reduced, and Ms. Shackelford said that had been discussed. Ms. Hinshaw asked how the equity guidelines would be written and who will write them. Ms. Farrell answered that this was discussed regarding the Public Safety and Equity Advisory Committee. There will need to be one resident and one business owner involved, and she was not sure about the procurement details. Ms. Hinshaw asked if there are new equity considerations for new members on any commission. Ms. Farrell said that no, this was only discussed in reference to the PSEA committee and they did not refer specifically to any category of people such as low-income residents or people of color.

Ms. Castillo said that she attended the Council Meeting and was part of the discussion about what would be an appropriate number of committee members, and the CAC will be able to give input into that in the future.

Chair Knight asked if there were no more comments or questions if someone would like to close the discussion. Seeing none, he entertained a motion to close discussion.

**Mr. Barney moved to close the discussion and Ms. Rizzo seconded and the motion passed unanimously.**

iii. Special Meeting Follow-Up: Financial Literacy & COVID-19 Relief Resources

Ms. Hinshaw said that she and Mr. Schwab had designed a web site shell, and Ms. Shackelford shared it on her screen. Ms. Hinshaw said they'd researched different city's web sites for ideas. She showed how on the new web site, someone could click on the CAC link and it would show the names and picture of members so that residents know who they are when they run into them around town.

Agendas are listed on the top left of the screen, but they could also click on meetings and go directly to see the agendas and the minutes. Other proposed features include showing project highlights, a link to Mr. Schwab's public safety presentation, and a searchable database of meetings, and links to resources with 211 and the Food Bank information at the top.

Ms. Farrell asked if she wanted the landing page to have multiple pages layered beneath it, and Ms. Hinshaw said that was their hope. Ms. Farrell suggested inviting Kevin Mooney of the City Staff to help and that they could continue as a working group since the web site will be made based on changes made at the CAC meetings.

Ms. Hinshaw asked for feedback and Ms. Castillo and Chair Knight said it looked great and asked to have a copy emailed to everyone. Ms. Rizzo asked if the Community Garden Project could be included and Ms. Hinshaw said it would be added to the list of achievements.

Ms. Rizzo said that Oregon City has a financial literacy series that begins with kindergarten and goes all the way through adulthood. Chair Knight asked Ms. Rizzo if she could get more information and find out who's running it.

**Ms. Rizzo moved to close discussion and Mr. Barney seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

## **6. Department Report**

Ms. Shackelford gave the report. She announced that Brenda Valdez is the new Administrative Assistant and providing support to both the Planning and Building divisions. She will attend a future CAC meeting so all will be able to meet her.

The City is now partnering with the University of Oregon's Sustainable City Year Program. It's a program that pairs Oregon cities with university classes to provide ideas about challenges they are facing. Troutdale will be hosting students in the fields of architecture, planning, law, public administration, etc. She was part of this program personally and found it to be a very enriching opportunity to work on real world issues while a student.

Also, in partnership with Wood Village and Fairview, Troutdale has been awarded a \$200,000 transportation and growth management grant to help launch the Main Streets on Halsey project. The grant specifically will be used to hire design consultants.

Ms. Hinshaw had asked last month about the community enhancement program. Right now, it's not known if funding will be available from the grant next year. This is the final year of the intergovernmental agreement with Metro. However, there is the possibility of a renewal with them. They only had the answers to what was funded from the unofficial minutes, but these include six projects, the "Boy's Life" sculpture, the Eagle Ridge Plaza Design, Sandy River Clean Up, Beaver Creek Restoration and Clean Up project, and the Educational Advancements and Fostering Futures CASA for Children, in addition to the previously discussed lifeguard statue.

Moving on, the Municipal Broadband study was released and Ms. Shackelford can distribute it to everyone after the meeting.

Finally, the Parks Advisory Committee will meet on the 14<sup>th</sup> with the Landscape Architect presenting their report. Ms. Shackelford invited the committee members to attend the meeting if they'd like to find out more.

Chair Knight asked if he could get an updated roster of the CAC members with their contact information and term dates. Ms. Shackelford said that would be available soon.

## **7. Committee Comments**

Ms. Reynolds commented that she is glad that Chair Knight's land was safely evacuated. She also has family in Estacada who needed to leave, and she appreciated whoever invited Mr. Bevins to join them. She thanked Ms. Hinshaw and Mr. Schwab for their hard work on the web site.

Mr. Barney asked how many people can attend the meeting in person at the police station, and Ms. Shackelford answered that five committee members and one staff member can be present.

Mr. Wheaton thanked the Staff. He said he was visiting via Zoom from Arizona.

Ms. Hinshaw asked the group how the City supports businesses who generate garbage and are located next to parks. She asked how they can support the people who clean up the garbage at the parks. Sugar Pine's customers have been using the park restrooms and throwing out their garbage at the Glenn Otto garbage cans and then Karen, the parks employee, has to clean up after them.

Mr. Wheaton asked if the CAC could help by moving Sugar Pine out of the park. Ms. Hinshaw asked if there was somewhere affordable for them to move to. Mr. Brown said that he likes Sugar Pine, and Karen gets paid to pick up the trash. He is happy that 14 people were working for the locally owned Sugar Pine on a Sunday and they are attracting lots of traffic. Mr. Erich mentioned that they donated free ice cream to his volunteer group cleaning up litter near the Sandy River and that they're a jewel.

Ms. Castillo thanked Ms. Hinshaw and Mr. Schwab for creating a web site and said she was sorry she missed the last meeting and hopes everyone is doing well. She urges everyone to support local businesses that are hurting so they can stay open.

Mr. Erich said he was glad to be back and that last week's meeting coincided with school starting. He attended a recent candidate forum with representatives from Troutdale and local cities along with the

State House and State Senate. He observed that it would be great to connect all of these constituencies around the shared interest in solving houselessness.

Mr. Lumiere said he appreciated all the work that everyone's doing. He also loves Sugar Pine and thinks it would be great for them to find a home in the center of town.

Mr. Brown said he hasn't talked to Walmart yet about whether there will be a seasonal toy drive, and he will keep the CAC updated.

Ms. Rizzo said that the Census will continue through the end of October and urged people to remind their neighbors who hadn't completed it that there's still time. Troutdale currently has 70.1% of the surveys returned. The money is used to support schools and issues like houselessness.

Chair Knight said that next month, he would like to include Mr. Schwab and Ms. Hinshaw reporting about the web site and also adding the Broadband study. Also, he would like to add the Park Trails meeting and Mr. Brown's report about the toy drive to the agenda. He also noted that he might be out of town. December's meeting will include hosting the annual rent burden meeting and hopefully the usual holiday potluck.

## **8. Adjourn**

**Mr. Erich moved to adjourn the meeting and Mr. Brown seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:36 p.m.**

### **Next Regular Meeting:**

**Wednesday, November 4, 2020 | 7:00 p.m. | Troutdale Police Community Center**

**Due to safety precautions regarding COVID-19, there will be a limit on public attendance in the Kellogg Room. The meeting will also be held virtually via Zoom. If members of the public wish to join, please email [amber.shackelford@troutdaleoregon.gov](mailto:amber.shackelford@troutdaleoregon.gov) for a link to the meeting.**



**DATE:** November 4, 2020  
**FROM:** Chris Damgen, Community Development Director  
Joe Storagee, Code Compliance Officer  
**TO:** Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC)  
**SUBJECT:** Chicken Code Standards

The City of Troutdale is considering establishing standards that regulate the keeping of chickens on residential properties. The City Council has already had a first hearing on the matter, at which time, they referred the matter to the CAC to solicit additional feedback and suggestions to the proposed code language (see attachment).

Animal regulations in Troutdale are typically tied to standards within Multnomah County Code. In the case of standards for keeping chickens, Multnomah County removed standards and now informs interested keepers to refer to local city standards. Other cities in the County have established regulations. When people call the City to ask about standards for keeping chickens, Staff is unable to provide direction and people take matters into their own hands.

This ordinance would establish regulations for Troutdale, however city standards would not override any neighborhood association restrictions or prohibitions. Staff used the City of Gresham's regulations as a starting template for standards with some modifications for siting and to allow for slightly larger spaces for coops and enclosures. A permit framework is suggested, though regulations can stand on their own if needed. Staff will seek feedback on siting and permitting requirements in particular.

Staff is also concerned about the potential for an increase in rodents and vectors if no standards are put forth or if coops and runs are unkempt. Those concerns should be balanced with the testimony of those who state that keeping chickens have certain quality of life benefits.

City Council will ask the CAC to consider the testimonies of those in attendance, discuss any potential changes to the draft language, and forward a recommendation to them so that they can take action at a future Council meeting in December. Therefore, **these actions need to occur in one meeting.**

**ATTACHED:** Draft Code Language (presented at the October 13, 2020 City Council meeting)  
Testimony from residents  
Articles about keeping chickens  
Photos taken by the Code Compliance Officer

## TITLE 6 – ANIMALS

### **CHAPTER 6.08 – KEEPING OF CHICKENS**

#### **6.08.010 – Short Title.**

TMC Chapter 6.08 may be cited as the Troutdale Chicken Code.

#### **6.08.020 – Definitions.**

In addition to the definitions set forth in TMC 1.04.010, for purposes of the Troutdale Chicken Code, the following definitions apply:

- A. “Chicken” means the common domestic fowl (Species: *gallus gallus domesticus*).
- B. “Coop” means a small enclosure for housing chickens.
- C. “Detached Single-Family Dwelling” as defined by the Troutdale Development Code.
- D. “Dwelling Unit” as defined by the Troutdale Development Code
- E. “Rear Yard” as defined by the Troutdale Development Code.
- F. “Rooster” means a male chicken at least four (4) months old or older. This definition includes cockerels between four (4) to twelve (12) months old and capons regardless of age.
- G. “Run” means an enclosed area where chickens may feed or exercise.

#### **6.08.030 – Keeping of Chickens.**

- A. A person may keep three (3) or fewer chickens with a permit on any one lot or parcel. On the lot or parcel where the three (3) or fewer chickens are kept, the person must have a detached single-family dwelling in which the person resides.
- B. Only chickens at least four (4) months old or older count towards the total of three.
- C. No person shall keep roosters.

#### **6.08.040 – Enclosures.**

- A. Chickens must be kept in an enclosed coop or run at all times. The coop and run shall be located in the rear yard of the lot or parcel. Variances to the rear yard siting provision may be considered by the Troutdale Planning Commission through a Type III Special Variance application and procedure as identified within the Troutdale Development Code.
- B. The coop shall be located at least 25 feet from dwelling units on a different lot or parcel and at least ten (10) feet from all property lines. Variances from these dimensional standards shall not be considered.
- C. The run shall be located at least ten (10) feet from all property lines. Variances from this dimensional standard shall not be considered.

- D. Chickens must be kept in a covered, enclosed coop between 9:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m.
- E. The coop shall have at least four (4) square feet of floor space per grown chicken.
- F. The run shall have at least eight (8) square feet of space per grown chicken.
- G. The coop and run must be kept in good repair, capable of being maintained in a clean and sanitary condition, free of vermin, and obnoxious smells and substances.
- H. The coop and run and chickens therein shall not violate chapters contained within Title 8 of this Code or disturb neighboring residents due to noise, odor, damage, or threats to public health.
- I. Chicken feed or any other supplement to support chicken health must be stored in a sealed container that is not penetrable by rodents or other animals.

**6.08.050 – Inspection.**

The manager is authorized to make inspection of property to effectuate the purposes and public benefits of the Troutdale Municipal Code and enforce this Chapter. Authorization to inspect shall be pursuant to Section 8.28.080 of this Code, irrespective of whether a permit has been granted.

**6.08.060 – Permit Requirements.**

- A. No person shall keep chickens under the provisions of this article without first obtaining a permit to keep chickens on their lot or parcel, and paying the permit fee prescribed.
- B. The permit shall be valid for a two-year period with the permit period commencing on the first day of the month a permit is issued and ends on the first day of the same month two years later.
- C. The permit may be revoked by the manager for any violation of the provisions of this article.
- D. The permit fee shall be established by council resolution.
- E. The permit fee may be changed at any time by the city, and all permit fees required shall be payable in advance at the time of application or renewal.
- F. The permit fee is not refundable under any circumstance.
- G. Applications for a permit shall be made to the city on forms prescribed by the Manager. The application shall include a signed statement acknowledging the property owner’s knowledge and consent of the application if the applicant is not the property owner and a signed statement that the applicant will comply with the provisions of this Chapter. The manager shall issue a permit when application has been approved and payment of the required fee has been received. The permit shall be exhibited to a peace officer upon demand.

**6.08.070 – Penalty.**

Violation of any provision of this article may be subject to a fine or penalty in the maximum amount of \$1,000.

I'm here to speak in opposition to the proposed changes to TMC Title 6 regarding keeping chickens in Troutdale. Keeping chickens creates a nuisance by the very nature of they're being outdoors adjacent to neighboring properties. The 25' buffer from the nearest residence is entirely inadequate to prevent the odors from being detectable by neighbors. If a neighbor were outside in their backyard, the distance from the fence line could be only 10'. Neighboring dogs might get agitated also by chickens across the fence from them. There's also the issue of the feed attracting rodents. We had to put our bird feeder away because the spilled feed was attracting rats.

I'm sure there are at least a few rural and isolated properties in Troutdale where the separation from neighbors would be adequate, but citywide under the current proposed distances of separation would be very detrimentally impactful to neighboring properties. Rural property owners could be accommodated if the buffer distances were increased significantly so that only larger parcels would be eligible. It just sounds like creating a problem that doesn't have to exist. If HOAs can legally prohibit chickens entirely, the City should certainly have the same authority if it so chooses.

Submitted by:  
Paul Wilcox  
Troutdale  
10/13/2020

**From:** [Nicole Lawrence](#)  
**To:** [Chris Damgen](#)  
**Cc:** [Amber Shackelford](#); [Brenda Valdez](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Chicken Code - Citizens Advisory Committee  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 27, 2020 8:07:06 AM

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Hi Chris,

These are a few notes I've take concerning the chicken ordinance. I looked at City of Portland chicken ordinance for some ideas. I also talked with a few chicken owners. These were some of the ideas that we discussed.

Confining chickens to their run is counter to two of the primary reasons for owning chickens - to have an environment friendly source of pest control and to have a healthy source of food.

Chickens are an environmentally friendly way to control bugs and pests in a yard and their droppings provide a natural fertilizer for gardens.

When hens consume bugs, worms, etc, they produce better quality eggs. Requiring a fenced yard but not prohibiting time outside the run, allows chickens to roam in a secure area, yet protect neighbors from unnecessary destruction of their property.

While I still oppose all permits, if the council determines permits are necessary, they should be based on a sliding scale. Fewer than four chickens would not require a permit, with up to 9 chickens allowed in total. Every chicken you add after 5 would increase your permit. As I said at the last council meeting, three is too few to provide enough food, even for a family of four.

Setting restrictions on when chickens can be let out of the coop would be counter productive. Chickens have a natural rhythm of sleep and wake. They awake at dawn and voluntarily return to their coop at dusk. If the goal of the proposed 7am-9pm rule is to reduce noise then it would create more noise in the summer months when the sun rises early. Chickens "cooped up" will fuss, loudly. Given chickens natural instincts I doubt a restriction is necessary. If the city feels it must address this specifically perhaps a dawn till dusk rule is more appropriate. Prohibiting roosters also cuts down on noise.

Coop placement is challenging in smaller areas. The city of Portland has a rule of 15 feet away from residential buildings, excluding your own home. That seems to put a decent distance between neighbors and chickens. In our case if we had followed the 20 foot rule that was suggested at the meeting, our coop would have been placed in a far less aesthetically pleasing area. Making a blanket requirement to stay at least ten feet from all sides property lines likely puts a coop in the middle of the back yard and that's unsightly for everyone, neighbors included. I'm sure that would be a similar scenario for others and defeats the goal of minimizing impact on others.

Another suggestion from the City of Portland is that a coop is required to be maintained properly. Proper maintenance would include feeding and watering animals, making sure all feed was kept in a secure area, such as the chicken run, and the area must be sanitary. Chicken coops are ideally cleaned weekly, but no more than 2 weeks should go by. That creates a hazard for chickens as well as an unpleasant smell for others. Obviously complaints of this nature would prompt a visit from the city to inspect the area.

Considering there was no previous ordinance in place for chickens most owners have tried to be respectful and responsible with their chickens. Chickens aren't just a food source, for many homes

they're also family pets. Not in the same capacity as a dog or cat, but they do feel like part of the family as you care for them and learn more about their personalities.

I appreciate the opportunity to collaborate on this and hope the committee will consider the time, money, and emotions that current owners have invested in their flocks as they help set rules for the future.

I have attached a few pictures of our coop for reference.

Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions or to discuss the ordinance further.

Sincerely,  
Nicole Lawrence





# Is There a Correlation Between Rodents and Backyard Chickens?

Julene Reese

08/24/2018

August 23, 2018

## Is There a Correlation between Backyard Chickens and Increased Rodent Populations?

Several cities along the Wasatch Front have recently passed ordinances allowing urban residents to raise backyard chickens. In a story by the Associated Press last December, a link was shown between an explosion in the rat population in Eugene, Oregon, and the growth in backyard chicken ranching. Residents there reported



seeing more

rats, and in areas where they haven't been before. Pest control companies in the area also reported a brisk spike in business. However, surprisingly, over this same time period, there were no increased reports of infectious diseases that can be traced to rats, including bubonic plague, hantavirus, leptosporosis and rat-bite fever. According to Terry Messmer, Utah State University Extension wildlife specialist, humans can get these diseases if they are bitten by an infected rat or if they inhale or ingest microorganisms in the rat's feces or urine. In trying to understand why there was an increase in rat populations but not in the diseases they carry, Messmer said most cities have ordinances designed to prohibit conditions that attract rodents. Such ordinances require the rancher to rodent-proof chicken coops and outbuildings that contain food, and they prohibit ranchers from storing garbage unless it is stored in rodent-proof containers. They also grant city employees the authority to make inspections and issue notices of violation.

Messmer said a review of the current scenario suggests factors that have created a "perfect rodent storm." Factors include sanitation, exclusion and control – or the lack thereof, on the part of backyard chicken ranchers.

"Rodents are prolific breeders," he said. "They readily capitalize on new opportunities for food, cover and water. Rats generally only prey on chicks and eggs, but if you have a serious infestation and food is scarce, they will raid coops at night and attack juvenile and adult birds. Rats kill by biting the head or neck of their prey. Parts of the chicken's body may be eaten, and the corpses may be pulled into burrows or other concealed locations for feeding."

Messmer said it's possible that rats won't be seen unless there is a severe problem, as they are shy and generally come out only at night. If they are around, you may be able to spot chewing damage on coops. Rats are also great burrowers and can enter a coop or run from below.

"Don't create conditions that attract rodents, raccoons or skunks to your yard," he said. "Remove feeders and waterers each night and replace them in the morning. While your chickens won't want to eat or drink at night, rats will, so make sure they are not attracted to your area by seed from wild bird feeders, or cat or dog food left out overnight. And if you spill food, clean it up. If rodents have a food source, they will set up camp for the long term."

In addition, Messmer said to store chicken feed in rodent-proof containers. Rodents, raccoons and skunks are more likely to chew through wood than plastic, and more likely to chew through plastic than metal.

As far as exclusion, Messmer said that chicken wire is not a barrier to predators. Most predators can tear through it and rats can bite through the thin wire. Smaller rodents will simply squeeze through the holes. Chicken wire should only be used to keep chickens in, not to keep predators out. Instead, use tightly woven mesh hardware cloth that is one-fourth to one-half inch for the best protection.

"If you see gnawing damage on your coop, staple hardware cloth around the damaged area so rodents won't get through," he said. "Also consider wiring the bottom of your run, burying the bottom of your fence or providing an apron so they can't enter the coop from below. Since rats, raccoons and even skunks can climb fences, the only way to completely exclude them from the chicken yard is to enclose the top, bottom and sides."

Messmer also said to remove hiding places. Chicken coops with floors that are raised and open beneath will eliminate rodent hideouts.

"If you have done all the above and still have rodents, consider population control," he said. "Simple wood-base snap traps baited with peanut butter work well. If you use toxicants, they must be used with a tamper-proof bait box so that chickens, pets and people aren't at risk for poisoning. Pets can also get poisoned second hand by getting ahold of a poisoned rodent, he said. A bait box will keep the rodent contained so it can't leave and die

in a wall or beneath your house or coop and decompose there.”

For further information, contact your local county Extension office or visit <https://poultry.usu.edu/raising>.

Writer: Julene Reese, [Julene.reese@usu.edu](mailto:Julene.reese@usu.edu)

Contact: Terry Messmer, [Terry.messmer@usu.edu](mailto:Terry.messmer@usu.edu)



*Homesteading, exploring nature, and supporting biodiversity in the suburbs*



## Pros and Cons of Backyard Chickens

Posted on July 25, 2013 by janet@ouroneacrefarm.com

We hear so much about the wonderful benefits of raising chickens, but the truth is that it's not for everyone. So I thought an honest discussion of the pros and cons of backyard chickens would be helpful.



*Free ranging backyard chickens*

I am often asked by potential coop lords if it is time consuming or expensive. I never quite know how to respond, because it really depends on how you take care of your animals. A dog takes little time and money if you leave it chained to a tree all

day. Or it can be very time consuming and expensive, if you walk the dog several times a day, and provide appropriate stimulation, veterinary care, etc.

It's the same with chickens. They can survive with minimal care, but if you're the type who will want to provide them with a life that's even remotely similar to the way their wild relatives live, then the answer is yes, it will probably be time consuming and expensive. It will certainly be more time consuming and probably more expensive than purchasing eggs shelled out from the [battery cage system](#). But I think the more important questions are whether or not you will enjoy caring for them, because if you enjoy it, the costs might not matter much to you.

In weighing the pros and cons, I think it's important to understand the health and animal welfare costs of industrial chicken farms, so I have provided some links for further reading. If you decide you'd rather not keep chickens after all, I hope you will support farmers who treat their animals humanely. If you cannot find a local source of humanely produced eggs or meat, check to see if your grocer carries a brand with some kind of humane certification. Food labeling is confusing, but I do know that [Animal Welfare Approved](#) has the highest standards. Probably because their standards are so high, and maybe because the program is relatively new, AWA certified products are hard to find. Certified Humane products are much easier to come by. Certified Humane's standard of care is lower than AWA's, but still much better than battery cages.

Now for the pros and cons. I hope this helps you decide if backyard chickens would be a delight or a nuisance in your life:

## The *pros* of keeping chickens

To appreciate the pros of keeping chickens, you really need to understand the cons of factory farms, for raising some of your own food reduces your dependency on them. [This excellent infographic](#) from Health Science Degree Guide, provides a great overview of the animal welfare, public health, and environmental costs of factory farming. And I'll flesh it out with additional details below.

1. **Animal Welfare** You will not be financially supporting factory chicken farms, which is an important step towards dismantling them, a great contribution towards farm animal welfare. You will have the satisfaction that your food animals are comfortable, content, and, dare I say, "happy", unlike the vast majority of laying hens raised for commercial production of eggs in America. While some people doubt that chickens have the capacity for suffering and pleasure, I personally find that absurd. Call me crazy, but I don't think it takes a scientific study to say that the hen in the photo below is happy and content, and [these chickens](#) are suffering. Yet studies have indeed been done, and here you will find a review of the evidence that [battery cage hens](#) do suffer.



*Free ranging bantam buff Brahma hen*

2. **Improved Nutrition** Animals evolved eating a wide variety of plants and/or animals. We evolved eating animals which feed on wild fare, and eating them is probably healthier for us than eating factory farm prisoners raised on **grain, garbage, arsenic, and antibiotics**. The **health benefits of eggs** from chickens with access to natural forage include more heart-healthy omega-3 fats, less saturated fat and cholesterol, more vitamin E, more vitamin A, more beta carotene, and **more vitamin D**. Nutritive content of meat from chickens with access to a wide variety of natural foods has not been carefully studied, as far as I know. (Meat from chickens in outdoor movable pens has not been shown to be substantially better than conventionally produced chicken meat, but the moveable pen system doesn't really give chickens meaningful access to a wide variety of wild foods.) In my opinion, there is likely to be a health benefit, given the known **health benefits of meat from pastured cows**.
3. **Environmental Health** Backyard chickens are an extremely local food source. Their waste can be used as fertilizer for your garden, rather than **pollution of water associated with intensive farming**.
4. **Public Health** Keeping backyard chickens is a way to produce food without the overuse of antibiotics characteristic of factory farming. The latter has been **implicated in the evolution of antibiotic resistant bacteria**. This is a serious public health problem.
5. **Reduced Risk of Salmonella Infection** In a study in the European Union, **salmonella infection was found to be more common in battery cage flocks**, than in organic, barn, or free range flocks. The higher risk in intensive caged systems could be due to the extreme crowding, enormous flock size, or poor hygiene, all of which promote the spread of bacteria. Also, the longer eggs have been sitting around, the more time for bacteria to proliferate. If you keep chickens, you have control over how soon after laying the eggs are refrigerated, and you know how old the eggs are when you eat them.



*Eggs from backyard chickens*

6. **Entertainment**, if you enjoy watching birds.
7. **Education**, if they inspire you to learn about avian biology, animal behavior, animal welfare, agriculture, sustainability, etc., or if you use them to educate others.

## The cons of raising chickens

1. **Construction or purchase of coop, run, and fencing** This requires time, thought, and money.
2. **Smelly Droppings** Chickens poop often and indiscriminately. It smells bad, and can be tracked into your house.
3. **Noise** Both hens and roosters are noisy, and if that doesn't bother you, it might bother your neighbors.
4. **Rodents** are often attracted to chicken coops and chicken feed.
5. **Daily Maintenance** This will require about an hour, if you wash and refill water founts, collect eggs, shake down feeders, scoop up the worst of the poop, and rake the litter around to discourage rodents from moving in. That's my basic daily coop routine.
6. **Annual or Seasonal Maintenance** The entire coop should be cleaned out and litter replaced, at a very minimum of once a year. I do it 4-5 times a year.
7. **Dust** Chickens create a lot of dust by scratching around in the litter, coating the walls and other surfaces in the coop with a fine dust that's not good for your lungs, or for theirs. I use a shop vacuum on the walls every few weeks, so this is another possible maintenance task for your list.
8. **Vacation Coverage** You will need to have someone tend to your flock when you are away. At the very least, you will need someone to collect the eggs daily, because chickens sometimes develop the annoying habit of eating those delicious eggs if you leave them in the coop.
9. **Conflicts with Wildlife** Many predators covet chickens and their eggs as much as we do. You will need to learn about the predators in your area and figure out how to keep the birds safe, given your particular coop/run/yard set-up. Predator attacks can be a source of great angst and anger for some people, but I have enjoyed learning about chicken and predator behavior so for me the experience is a pro, not a con.
10. **Behavior Problems** Chickens are complicated social creatures, and even in the best of situations, you might need to manage an occasional behavior issue, such as feather picking or bullying. But if animal behavior fascinates you, might enjoy the challenge of such management problems.
11. **Ailing Chickens** Like people and any other animal, chickens are vulnerable to diseases involving all body systems. Problems range from parasites to respiratory diseases, to foot abscesses, to neurological disorders, and much more. Veterinary care for chickens is hard to find and expensive. This can be an overwhelming problem or an interesting challenge.
12. **Old Hens** Egg production tends to decline as the chicken ages, and you will need to decide what to do with the less productive hens, given limited coop space. If you let them live out their retirement, you might have to buy some of your eggs. But there is a lot of individual variation. My seven year old leghorn (photo below) still produces well, but not as well as some of the younger ones.
13. **Euthanasia** You might decide that euthanasia is the kindest choice for a sick or injured bird, or the kindest choice for everyone else, in the case of an extremely aggressive chicken. If you can find a vet who will do it, it will probably be expensive. You might have to decide how you can humanely put them down yourself.
14. **Slaughtering**, if you raise them for meat. A messy job that not everyone can stomach.



*Seven year old rose comb brown leghorn still produces almost as well as my younger hens*

Notice I did not list economics as either a pro or a con. That's because the cost in dollars of producing eggs in the backyard depends, once again, on how you take care of your birds.

Me? I adore my birds. I've learned so much from watching them. Their habits and behaviors are more interesting and complex than I ever imagined. They inspired me to take a serious look at battery cages and other "concentrated animal feeding operations" (CAFO's), which taught me how important it is to avoid supporting these factory farms with my purchases. Chickens taught me that, and I will be forever grateful to them for opening my eyes. Maintaining a flock of layers is definitely more expensive and time consuming for me than buying the cheapest available supermarket eggs, but I can't think of a better way to spend my time and money. The animal welfare issue alone is a decision maker for me.

*Shared on:* HomeAcre Harvest Hop, Backyard Farming Connection Hop, Natural Living Link-Up #95, HomeAcre Hop #44, Creative Home and Garden Hop #16, Tuesday With a Twist #32, From the Farm Hop, Homesteaders Hop #19, Old-Fashioned Friday #46, Simple Life Sundays #2, Wildcrafting Wednesday #123, Tuesday Greens #59, 104 Homestead hop #7

Posted in Chickens

permalink [<https://ouroneacrefarm.com/2013/07/25/pros-and-cons-of-backyard-chickens/>]



**About [janet@ouroneacrefarm.com](mailto:janet@ouroneacrefarm.com)**

Wildlife tracker, camera trapper, forager, and gardener, with a background in conservation biology. When I'm not outdoors enjoying these activities, I'm usually indoors writing about them.

[View all posts by \[janet@ouroneacrefarm.com\]\(mailto:janet@ouroneacrefarm.com\)](#)

FAMILY PARENTING FAMILY LIFE

# The downside of raising backyard chickens

By Deseret News | Jun 8, 2012, 2:00pm MDT

*Flint Stephens, For the Deseret News* GRID VIEW

**Providing a proper environment for a backyard flock can cost several hundred dollars.** | Flint Stephens

| 5 of 5

With growing interest in keeping backyard chickens, there are plenty of advocates to extol the benefits of having a home flock. No one really mentions the negatives of keeping chickens, yet there are many challenges.

An Internet search for information on the cons of raising backyard chickens doesn't yield much useful information. A few articles refer to one or two negatives after listing numerous positives. Many results appear to come from people with limited or no actual experience.

When communities are debating the legalization of urban chickens at public meetings, worried residents often voice concerns over things like noise and smell. But many challenges are learned only after one undertakes chicken ownership.

Here are some of them:

### Noise

Noisy roosters top the list of problems, and in many areas ordinances prohibit keeping adult male birds. While roosters crow early, loudly and often, hens also make a racket. Chickens squabble all day long, and plenty of cackling usually accompanies the activity. Admittedly, hens are not as noisy as roosters, but understanding neighbors are a plus for anyone who hopes to harvest home-raised eggs.

### Expense

Store-bought eggs are a bargain when compared to the cost of keeping a backyard flock. Setting up a coop with all the equipment can easily cost a few hundred dollars. Then an aspiring chicken rancher must feed and maintain the chicks for five or six months. Only then will he be able to start collecting eggs.

According to [www.poultrykeeper.com](http://www.poultrykeeper.com), in the first 18 months of its life, an exceptional hen could lay up to 250 eggs. At a price of \$2 a dozen, that is \$42 worth. Multiplied by five chickens, that amounts to about \$210. That means it could take three or four years to break even on the initial investment, and that doesn't count labor or continuing costs for feed.

### Garden damage

Chickens are living cultivators and rototillers. That can be a good thing when they are eating bugs and weeds. Unfortunately, chickens can't distinguish between weeds and newly emerging garden vegetables. And if you are lucky enough to raise vegetables or fruit to maturity, chickens believe you have done so for them to consume. If you want to raise chickens and have a nice garden, you'll need to devise a method of protecting the young plants or of keeping the chickens contained.

### Smell and mess

Anyone who has been near a commercial chicken operation has undoubtedly experienced some unpleasant scents. Fortunately, keeping a few chickens at home is not comparable. One benefit of Utah's dry climate is that there is little smell or mess with properly maintained backyard chickens. Six chickens produce about the same waste as a medium-sized dog.

## Culling

This is a reality every chicken owner must confront. Even when maintaining hens for eggs, there will eventually be old and unproductive hens. Sometimes chickens become injured or sick, and it makes little sense to spend lots of money taking them to a veterinarian. And when one buys baby chicks from a farm store, some turn out to be roosters — even when the signs on the cages promise they are pullets (young females).

Killing chickens is not fun. One can give them away, but that just forces someone else to deal with the problem.

Another reality is that chickens allowed to roam or range are not very good to eat. Unlike the grocery store birds, free-range chickens have little or no fat. They are also tough — as in chewy. If one hopes to raise birds for the table, they need to be confined and eaten at a young age; otherwise, plan on chicken soup instead of fried chicken.

## Predators

Even in urban areas, chickens attract predators. In Utah, the list includes raccoons, foxes, skunks, mink, weasels, hawks, magpies, dogs and cats. Some are primarily interested in eggs or young chickens. The prospect of eggs or a chicken dinner draws them all. If successful, they will return repeatedly. A sturdy enclosure and regular maintenance are necessary.

## Constant care

Chickens need daily attention. They must have food and fresh water. They need to be let out in the mornings and put away at night. Eggs must be collected daily. Coops must be cleaned regularly (at least a couple times each month). Nesting and bedding

materials must be provided and changed. Ignoring any of these tasks for even a day or two is irresponsible.

There are many benefits to raising chickens and harvesting one's own eggs. Good places to find information include [www.poultrykeeper.com](http://www.poultrykeeper.com), [www.backyardpoultry.com](http://www.backyardpoultry.com) or a local farm supply store. But just be aware that avid urban chicken fans tend to understate many of the accompanying challenges.

Flint Stephens has raised backyard chickens for more than 10 years. He is author of "Mormon Parenting Secrets: Time-Tested Methods for Raising Exceptional Children." His blog is [www.mormonparentingsecrets.com](http://www.mormonparentingsecrets.com).

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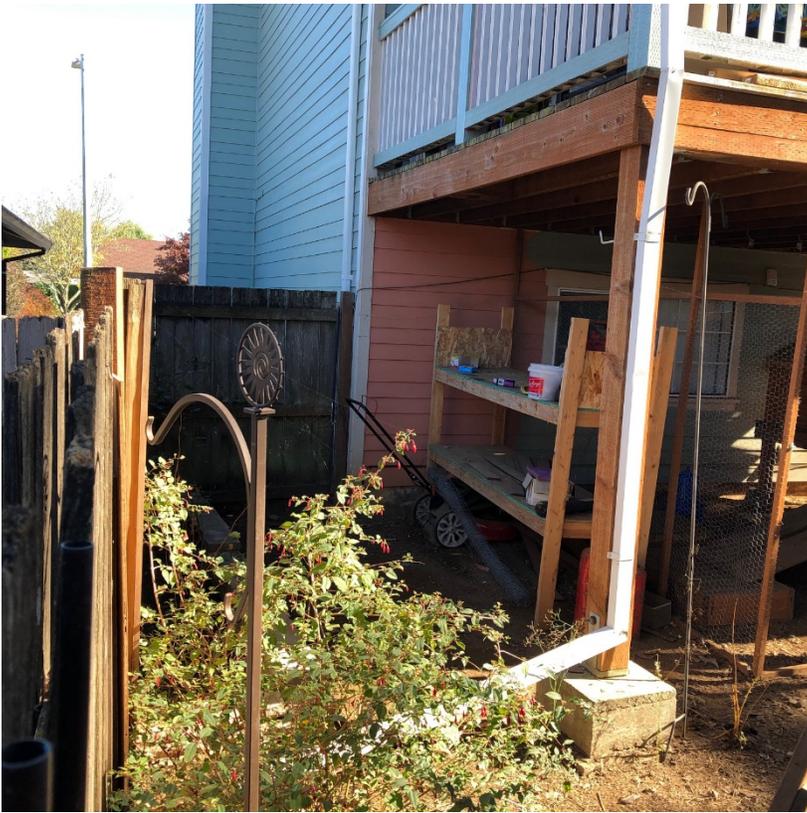
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**Comments**

**Deseret News Community guidelines**

We believe it's possible to disagree without being disagreeable. In short, we encourage comments that are:

Photos taken by Code Compliance Officer Joe Storagee







## CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

### Citizens Advisory Committee

*Bridging Voices, Building Community*

Agendas/Minutes
City Council
+ Commissions
- Committees
+ Budget Committee
<b>Citizens Advisory Committee</b>
Community Enhancement Program Committee
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Town Center Committee
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#### OUR PURPOSE

The Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) is a committee comprised of Troutdale residents who represent the views of the residents of Troutdale to the Troutdale City Council. While primarily charged with encouraging citizen involvement as identified by Goal 1 of the Comprehensive Land Use Plan, the group also discusses, researches, and analyzes complex topics facing Troutdale residents. Topics are typically referred to the CAC by the Troutdale City Council, and the CAC in turn provides official recommendations as to actions City Council should take, or policies the Council should adopt.

#### MEMBERS

The CAC is an 11 member body, appointed by City Council, on staggered, three year terms.

[Meet the Troutdale CAC](#)

#### MEETINGS

The CAC meets regularly on the first Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. Meetings are held in the Kellogg Room of the Troutdale Police Community Center (234 SW Kendall Ct).

[View Previous Meetings](#)

### Contact Information

Business Office

Address: 219 E. Historic Columbia River Hwy, Troutdale, OR 97060

Phone: 503-674-7258

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#### PROJECTS

The CAC addresses complex issues facing Troutdale residents. Below is a list of some of the CAC's most recent projects.

[Defining Public Safety](#)

[Resources During COVID-19 Pandemic](#)

[Proposed Changes to Voting Process](#)

[Municipal Broadband](#)

[Houselessness](#)

[Housing Needs Analysis](#)

[Community Livability Survey](#)

[Community Outreach](#)

### Upcoming Events

Citizens Advisory Committee - Regular Meeting

09/02/2020 - 7:00pm

Citizens Advisory Committee - Regular Meeting

10/07/2020 - 7:00pm

Citizens Advisory Committee - Regular Meeting

11/04/2020 - 7:00pm

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Search

## CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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Agendas/Minutes
City Council
+ Commissions
- Committees
+ Budget Committee
<b>Citizens Advisory Committee</b>
Community Enhancement Program Committee
Parks Advisory Committee
Public Safety Advisory Committee
Selection Committee
Town Center Committee
Urban Renewal Agency

### MEET THE TROUTDALE CAC MEMBERS



**CHAIR** - Will Knight



**VICE CHAIR** - Kyle Schwab



**COMMITTEE MEMBER** - Chris Barney



**COMMITTEE MEMBER** - Sam Barnett



**COMMITTEE MEMBER** - Jon Brown



**COMMITTEE MEMBER** - Diane Castillo-White



**COMMITTEE MEMBER** - Timothy Erich



**COMMITTEE MEMBER** - Alexander Lumière



**COMMITTEE MEMBER** - Shelly Reynolds



**COMMITTEE MEMBER** - Victoria Rizzo



**COMMITTEE MEMBER** - David Wheaton



**COMMITTEE ALTERNATE** - Heidi Hinshaw

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Agendas/Minutes
City Council
+ Commissions
- Committees
+ Budget Committee
<b>Citizens Advisory Committee</b>
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Parks Advisory Committee
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Previous meeting agendas, minutes, and recordings can be found below.

<b>Monday, September 24, 2020</b>	+	
<a href="#">Agenda</a>	<a href="#">Meeting Minutes</a>	<a href="#">Audio Recording</a>
<b>Wednesday, September 2, 2020</b>	+	
<b>Wednesday, August 5, 2020</b>	+	
<b>Wednesday, July 1, 2020</b>	+	
<b>Wednesday, June 3, 2020</b>	+	
<b>Wednesday, May 6, 2020</b>	+	
<b>Wednesday, April 1, 2020</b>	+	
<b>Wednesday, March 4, 2020</b>	+	
<b>Wednesday, February 5, 2020</b>	+	
<b>Thursday, January 9, 2020</b>	+	
<b>Wednesday, December 4, 2019</b>	+	
<b>Wednesday, November 6, 2019</b>	+	
<b>Wednesday, October 2, 2019</b>	+	
<b>Wednesday, September 4, 2019</b>	+	
<b>Wednesday, August 7, 2019</b>	+	
<b>Wednesday, July 3, 2019</b>	+	
<b>Wednesday, June 5, 2019</b>	+	
<b>Thursday, May 1, 2019</b>	+	
<b>Wednesday, April 3, 2019</b>	+	
<b>Wednesday, March 6, 2019</b>	+	

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10/07/2020 - 7:00pm

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11/04/2020 - 7:00pm

[View the Citizens Advisory Committee Calendar](#) >



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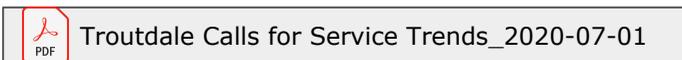
Agendas/Minutes
City Council
+ Commissions
- Committees
+ Budget Committee
<b>Citizens Advisory Committee</b>
Community Enhancement Program Committee
Parks Advisory Committee
Public Safety Advisory Committee
Selection Committee
Town Center Committee
Urban Renewal Agency

### CAC PROJECT - Public Safety in Troutdale

Using data obtained from the Multnomah County Sheriff's Office (which is Troutdale's law enforcement provider), the CAC is currently working to lead a community conversation into defining what public safety means to the residents of Troutdale.

The following documents, as they pertain to this topic, have been generated by the CAC.

- Data analysis of calls for law enforcement service in Troutdale. Presented to CAC in August 2020 meeting.



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Citizens Advisory Committee - Regular Meeting

10/07/2020 - 7:00pm

Citizens Advisory Committee - Regular Meeting

11/04/2020 - 7:00pm

[View the Citizens Advisory Committee Calendar >](#)



Search

## CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

### Citizens Advisory Committee *Bridging Voices, Building Community*

Agendas/Minutes
City Council
+ Commissions
- Committees
+ Budget Committee
<b>Citizens Advisory Committee</b>
Community Enhancement Program Committee
Parks Advisory Committee
Public Safety Advisory Committee
Selection Committee
Town Center Committee
Urban Renewal Agency

### CAC PROJECT - Resources during COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in unprecedented damage to our community, both in terms of its physical and economic health. Thankfully, our region is filled with a variety of resources and support designed to help our neighbors impacted by this pandemic.

Residents experiencing difficulties as a result of this pandemic could refer to the following lists for assistance:

- General list of resources available for Troutdale residents

Resource Lists\_2020-08-01

- General list of resources available for Troutdale residents separated by resource category

Resource Lists\_2020-08-01

While compiling this list, CAC members were pleased to find that the 211 app was helpful in tracking down many different services. To utilize this service, visit <https://www.211info.org/> or text your zip code to 898211.

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Additional resource listings, compiled and curated regularly by the Oregon Food Bank, can be found at the below link.

- [Oregon Food Bank](#)

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10/07/2020 - 7:00pm
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11/04/2020 - 7:00pm

[View the Citizens Advisory Committee Calendar](#) >



Search

## CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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*Bridging Voices, Building Community*

Agendas/Minutes
City Council
+ Commissions
- Committees
+ Budget Committee
<b>Citizens Advisory Committee</b>
Community Enhancement Program Committee
Parks Advisory Committee
Public Safety Advisory Committee
Selection Committee
Town Center Committee
Urban Renewal Agency

### CAC PROJECT - Voting in Troutdale

The City Council asked the CAC to research, discuss, and recommend whether or not the City Council should ask Troutdale voters to vote on changing the way we vote in city elections from the current majority system, where a candidate runs for a particular seat, to a "Top 3" system where all candidates run against each other.

In addition to members conducting individual research, the CAC heard testimony on this proposal from Troutdale residents as well as from Dr. Jim Moore, Associate Professor and Director of Political Outreach at Pacific University. After extensive discussion, the CAC recommended that the voting system stay the same, and that the council NOT put a change to our voting system on the November 2020 general election ballot.

The CAC's recommendation was presented to the City Council in their [June 23, 2020 meeting](#).

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09/02/2020 - 7:00pm

[Citizens Advisory Committee - Regular Meeting](#)  
10/07/2020 - 7:00pm

[Citizens Advisory Committee - Regular Meeting](#)  
11/04/2020 - 7:00pm

[View the Citizens Advisory Committee Calendar](#) >



Search

## CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

### Citizens Advisory Committee *Bridging Voices, Building Community*

Agendas/Minutes
City Council
+ Commissions
- Committees
+ Budget Committee
<b>Citizens Advisory Committee</b>
Community Enhancement Program Committee
Parks Advisory Committee
Public Safety Advisory Committee
Selection Committee
Town Center Committee
Urban Renewal Agency

### CAC PROJECT - Municipal Broadband

In their February 2020 meeting, the CAC heard a presentation from [Municipal Broadband PDX](#) which is a non-profit organization advocating for high speed fiber optic internet as a publicly-owned utility in Multnomah County. In this presentation, the CAC heard about the potential benefits to publicly owned internet as well as current efforts to determine the feasibility of such a utility in Multnomah County. In addition, the CAC heard a presentation from the IT Director of the City of Sandy, Oregon as this city has employed a municipal internet utility for a number of years. In this presentation, Sandy's pre-utility service barriers, as well as current utility service structure were described. Copies of those presentations can be found below.



In their March 2020 meeting, the CAC heard a presentation from [CTC Technology and Energy](#). CTC is a consulting organization contracted by Multnomah County to conduct the feasibility of providing municipal broadband within Multnomah County. Currently, all City governments within Multnomah County, as well as the County government itself, have participated in the study. The CAC is currently awaiting the results of CTC's feasibility study.

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- Citizens Advisory Committee - Regular Meeting  
10/07/2020 - 7:00pm
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11/04/2020 - 7:00pm

[View the Citizens Advisory Committee Calendar](#) >



Search

## CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

### Citizens Advisory Committee *Bridging Voices, Building Community*

Agendas/Minutes
City Council
+ Commissions
- Committees
+ Budget Committee
<b>Citizens Advisory Committee</b>
Community Enhancement Program Committee
Parks Advisory Committee
Public Safety Advisory Committee
Selection Committee
Town Center Committee
Urban Renewal Agency

### CAC PROJECT - Houselessness in Troutdale

Following up on feedback obtained from the 2019 [Troutdale Community Livability Survey](#), the CAC investigated the issue of houselessness in the Troutdale area, and continues to develop strategies aimed at reducing poverty, and subsequently houselessness, in Troutdale.

The following is the portfolio of work compiled by the CAC on this topic to date.

- Statistics on national, regional, and local houselessness; composition of Troutdale residents; potential strategies to address local poverty. Presented at the November 2019 meeting.



- List of resources to help people reduce personal spending:
  - [Hands-on Cooking Courses](#)
  - [Financial Empowerment](#) virtual course, offered through the Rosewood Initiative

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09/02/2020 - 7:00pm
- Citizens Advisory Committee - Regular Meeting  
10/07/2020 - 7:00pm
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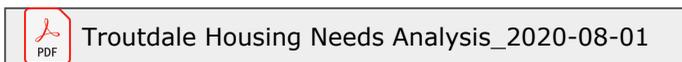
*Bridging Voices, Building Community*

Agendas/Minutes
City Council
+ Commissions
- Committees
+ Budget Committee
<b>Citizens Advisory Committee</b>
Community Enhancement Program Committee
Parks Advisory Committee
Public Safety Advisory Committee
Selection Committee
Town Center Committee
Urban Renewal Agency

### CAC PROJECT - Housing Needs Analysis

The CAC is an active participant in the City of Troutdale’s effort to address and close disparities in housing affordability. As a part of this process, the CAC has held two annual meetings (December 2018 and 2019) during which all Troutdale residents are invited to comment on rent burden and housing affordability.

In addition to these ongoing meetings, the CAC was briefed, and provided input on the Troutdale Housing Needs Analysis. A link to the analysis can be found below.



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[Citizens Advisory Committee - Regular Meeting](#)

09/02/2020 - 7:00pm

[Citizens Advisory Committee - Regular Meeting](#)

10/07/2020 - 7:00pm

[Citizens Advisory Committee - Regular Meeting](#)

11/04/2020 - 7:00pm

[View the Citizens Advisory Committee Calendar >](#)



Search

## CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

### Citizens Advisory Committee *Bridging Voices, Building Community*

Agendas/Minutes
City Council
+ Commissions
- Committees
+ Budget Committee
<b>Citizens Advisory Committee</b>
Community Enhancement Program Committee
Parks Advisory Committee
Public Safety Advisory Committee
Selection Committee
Town Center Committee
Urban Renewal Agency

### CAC PROJECT - Community Livability

During Troutdale SummerFest 2019, the CAC administered a 10 question survey about Troutdale livability to festival participants. This survey was also available via the city's Facebook page. Together, the CAC received over 150 responses to this survey. Responses were compiled into a short report and presented to the CAC during their August 2019 meeting; a copy of the results were also shared with the City of Troutdale. The survey responses have subsequently been used to inform the CAC's future projects and goals.

A copy of the community livability survey as well as the response analysis can be found below.

 [Community livability survey\\_2019-07-01](#)

 [Community livability survey analysis\\_2019-08-01](#)

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- Citizens Advisory Committee - Regular Meeting  
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- Citizens Advisory Committee - Regular Meeting  
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[View the Citizens Advisory Committee Calendar >](#)



Search

## CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

### Citizens Advisory Committee *Bridging Voices, Building Community*

Agendas/Minutes
City Council
+ Commissions
- Committees
+ Budget Committee
<b>Citizens Advisory Committee</b>
Community Enhancement Program Committee
Parks Advisory Committee
Public Safety Advisory Committee
Selection Committee
Town Center Committee
Urban Renewal Agency

### CAC PROJECT - Community Outreach

The CAC's primary goal is to help drive positive change in Troutdale by representing the voices of the residents of Troutdale in important policy matters. To do this, the CAC attends local events to engage in discussion with Troutdale residents on topical issues. In addition, the CAC continues to spread word about opportunities for residents to volunteer with their fellow neighbors.

Be on the lookout for the CAC at your next Troutdale event, and be sure to come and say hi!



Members of the CAC handed out prizes to game winners during the 2019 SummerFest

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- Citizens Advisory Committee - Regular Meeting  
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11/04/2020 - 7:00pm

[View the Citizens Advisory Committee Calendar](#) >



The CAC handed out candy and greeted guests of the Downtown Troutdale Trick-or-Treat Trail



**DATE:** October 27, 2020  
**FROM:** Amber Shackelford, Assistant Planner  
**TO:** Citizens Advisory Committee  
**SUBJECT:** Municipal Broadband Study Summary

Earlier this year, the CAC spent several meetings learning about and providing feedback on municipal broadband and the Multnomah County Municipal Broadband Fiber-to-the-Premises Feasibility Study. The study was published in September 2020 and is available on Multnomah County's [website](#). This is a brief memo summarizing the findings of the study. Please refer to the study for additional details.

The study found that COVID-19 has illuminated the affordability and access divide during an unprecedented demand to access remote work, education, and telehealth. 96 percent of households have some form of internet connection, but low-income residents are less connected and connect at lower speeds. Additionally, only 4 in 10 respondents agreed or strongly agreed that the market currently provides internet at prices they can afford.

The study found that there is strong support countywide for government playing a role in ensuring access to affordable broadband, and for government operating the network. This support is less strong in the eastside cities, including Troutdale. The desire for a government-operated network was found to be heavily dependent on price point, with \$50/month being the ideal.

The estimated construction cost for countywide fiber-to-the-premises was \$1 billion, assuming a 35 percent take-rate (the number of residents and businesses subscribed to the service). The estimated cost for Troutdale alone was just over \$16 million. Countywide, the service would be self-sustaining at a 36 percent take-rate, 4 percent bond interest rate, and \$80/month residential service fees. For a positive cash flow at a price of \$50/month, the required take-rate would be 70 percent.

Also included in the study were alternative solutions to meet critical short-term broadband needs, though they would not provide the same coverage and capacity as fiber. These solutions include expansive public Wi-Fi, targeted fixed wireless, assistance to help low-income residents access existing low-cost internet options, and government funded subsidies for existing broadband.

Finally, the study addressed potential funding sources, such as federal and state loans. COVID-19 has created additional funding opportunities for providing broadband access and affordability to those in need.

For any questions, please refer to the study or use the County's [online feedback form](#).