

**URBAN AREA PLANNING COMMISSION**  
**Meeting Minutes – July 28, 2021 at 6:00 P.M.**  
**Council Chambers**

**COMMISSIONERS:**

Eric Heesacker (Chair)  
Mark Collier (Vice Chair)  
Loree Arthur  
Jennifer Aviles  
Susan Tokarz-Krauss  
L. Ward Nelson – Absent  
Clint Scherf  
Vacant

**City/Staff/Council Liaisons:**

Bradley Clark, (CD Director)  
Jason Maki (Assistant Planner)  
Donna Rupp (Associate Planner)  
Ryan Nolan (Contract Principal Planner)  
Gabby Sinagra (Assistant Planner)

**Guests:**

Representative Lily Morgan, Oregon State  
Legislature - District 3  
Nathan Miller, Citizen

... calling to order this Planning Commission meeting. I'm going to go ahead and do roll call. Heesacker is here. Commissioner Collier.

Here.

Commissioner Arthur.

Here.

Commissioner Tokarz-Krauss.

Here.

Commissioner Aviles.

Here.

Commissioner Scherf.

Here.

And Commissioner Nelson appears to be absent. Item two, introductions. We will get to this momentarily, but I will introduce Representative Lily Morgan, who has graciously come here tonight to fill us in on the Oxford Houses. Thank you so much. Hang on one second. Public comment is item three, and this is an opportunity for the public to address the Commission on items not related to a public hearing or action item. Is anybody here in the audience for that purpose? All right. Item number four, guest speaker Representative Lily Morgan. Thank you very much.

Well, thank you, Chair and Commission members. It's a nice to be before you tonight. I am Lily Morgan. I represent House District 3, which is Grants Pass portions of Williams all the way to Cave Junction and in between.

Part of why I am here tonight is I have, in my past career, been a parole and probation officer. And in that capacity, I was the delegate of the office that entered into any of the programs in the community. I also was a part of the process of, when I was on City Council and working as a parole officer, assisting in three different Oxford Houses in our community. So I would do home visits and visit residents of the homes. And during their time here, we had two male homes and one female home at the time. They were in residential neighborhoods throughout the community.

But I also was the one that would put in the context for the state code, per se, and what those contexts were. And essentially, they were not treatment programs. They were considered maybe a support group, such as an AA (Alcoholics Anonymous) or an NA (Narcotics Anonymous) meeting, because sometimes they would have home meetings in the location. But I wanted to just offer my experience with the programs to you all for the sake of what that process was like. It was brought to my attention that they may be considered a care facility, and I can guarantee they are not that.

I did present to staff that would be there for you from the Oxford Houses program, their landlord zoning page, that is for Oxford Houses nationwide. In that is also a section at the bottom of page three that's specifically on zoning. That will show that they are considered single family residences for the purpose of zoning. If you were to visit a home, what you will find is it is basically an intentional living situation where people are choosing to live together for the sake of a common purpose. In this case, it's sober living. There is no authority, necessarily, anybody managing the house. It is self-governed. And you will find that in the documentation from Oxford Houses. You also can further look at [oxfordhouses.org](http://oxfordhouses.org), a website that talks about it nationwide. Oxford Houses have been under since the 1988 amendment of the Federal Fair Housing Act. They fall under the category of disability homes, in that addiction is considered a disability. But if you visit a home, you will see that people come and go. They are just essentially shared living spaces, and that's why it counts as single family living.

Most of my experiences from the homes when I was visiting them or going through the neighborhoods, you wouldn't know they're even there. It's literally a shared living experience. Sometimes there would be a house meeting because if they had to vote on something. But they do have some accountability, and essentially a charter in place, that governs how the house is run. And if the house is out, the leases as a house as a whole, not any individual with a landlord, they would evict or kick out every resident and bring in new residents to make sure that it is an account for the charter and the intentional living there.

But as far as treatment programs and other folks coming in and out, it's not that. The rules that were in place when I was a PO (Probation Officer) were that there could not be any sex offenders living in them. Because if an individual resident wanted their kids to visit and stay with them overnight, they'd have to be available. But I can't speak that for the whole houses and the charters, for them individually.

I am not here as a representative of Oxford Houses. I haven't talked to anybody from the house wanting to do it. I came as a neutral third party who's witnessed them, watched one come into play, and worked with all three that were existing during my time in my profession. And I would