



APPROVED

MEETING MINUTES

HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS COMMISSION

Thursday, September 6, 2018, 7:00 P.M.
Lorraine H. Morton Civic Center, Room 2402

Present: Vice-Chair Geri Palmer, Alderman Eleanor Revelle, Monika Bobo, Noelle Gilbreath, Moika Long, Mark Kruse, Larry Donoghue, Renee Phillips

Absent: Chair Ellen Cushing, Noelle Gilbreath, Mark Kruse

Staff: Sarah Flax, Housing and Grants Administrator; Savannah Clement, Housing Policy and Planning Analyst

Call to order

Vice-Chair Geri Palmer called the meeting to order at 7:07 PM with a quorum present.

Approve minutes of July 25, 2018 meeting

Larry Donoghue moved for approval, and Alderman Revelle seconded; Monika Bobo abstained. The motion was approved 5-0. Commissioners requested a more recent report on TBRA.

Public comment

No public comment.

Metropolitan Tenants Organization and Lawyers' Committee for Better Housing Application for Landlord-Tenant Services Funding

John Bartlett, executive director of MTO, provided a brief presentation. He said MTO has received 36 calls since July 1, 2018. He said the calls relate to evictions, repairs and lease questions. John said that there were about 200 evictions in Evanston last year alone. MTO also does healthy homes work - there is a lot of lead in older homes.

Question from the Commission about how the City was handling legal services for landlord-tenant work before. Open Communities did not provide legal assistance directly to landlords or tenants unless there was a fair housing discrimination issue. Otherwise, the cases were referred to outside agencies.

Commissioners asked about some of the services and impacts MTO has provided. John Bartlett said that last year MTO organized 2,000 tenants in 40 buildings. Vice-Chair Geri Palmer request a one-page fact sheet on MTO's projected outcomes based calls received in Evanston so far, as well as a few of MTO's recent accomplishments.

Alderman Revelle moved for approval, Larry Donoghue seconded and it was approved unanimously.

Staff Reports

Staff provided updates on affordable housing work. Send email about Steering Committee to Commissioners.

Chair's Report

No report; Chair absent from meeting.

New/Other Business

Renee Phillips said she will send lease from Decatur to staff. She also requested a report on recent TBRA graduates with status updates on the other households still participating in the program.

Adjournment

Ald. Revelle motioned to adjourn, Monika Bobo seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 8:21 p.m.

The next scheduled meeting of the commission is Thursday, October 4, at 7:00 p.m. in room 2402.

Respectfully submitted,
Savannah Clement, Housing Policy and Planning Analyst