



MEETING MINUTES

AFFORDABLE HOUSING STEERING COMMITTEE

Wednesday, November 13, 2019, 7:00 P.M.

Lorraine H. Morton Civic Center, Parasol Room

Present: Chair Michael Roane, Ellen Cushing, Corina Boeckeler, Rodney Orr, Uri Pachter, Timothy Stroh, Ald. Eleanor Revelle, Stephanie Murray

Absent: Sarah Delgado, Stephanie Gerberding, Christopher Rothwell

Staff: Quentin Crane, VISTA Housing Associate, Marion Johnson, Housing Intern. Sarah Flax, Housing and Grants Manager (by phone)

Guest speakers: Tom Lenz and Wendy Siegel, Millennia Consulting

Call to Order

Chair Roane called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM with a quorum present.

Approval of Meeting Minutes: October 16, 2019

Uri Pachter moved approval of the minutes as presented, Stephanie Murray seconded the motion; minutes were approved unanimously.

Community Outreach & Engagement Planning

Tom Lentz, Millennia Consulting led a short conversation about a Citylab article: "[Minneapolis Saw that NIMBYism has victims too](#)". Committee members discussed their takeaways from the article. Michael Roane shared that the inclusion of equity in the conversation on housing was interesting and commented on a point from the article stating that zoning can sometimes be used as an extension of redlining policies. He noted the link to the recent redlining exhibit at the City Hall. Uri Pachter mentioned it was interesting how Minneapolis used an iterative approach to tackle the housing challenges but was also able to enact major change within 5 years. Committee members discussed the major single-family zoning changes Minneapolis enacted, the fact that Minneapolis decided to enact it throughout the city rather than in specific areas, and the possible conflicts with landmark and preservation districts.

Mr. Lenz reviewed with the group the assignment sheet for community interviews and focus groups scheduled to take place in the next 2 months. Mr. Lenz reviewed Millennia Consulting's assignment and received committee members' agreement on the schedule and list of interviewees. Ellen Cushing requested the dates and times of the Millennia assigned groups so that committee members could sit in and learn how to run a focus group.

The committee then reviewed the full list of assignments planned so far by the members, adding and volunteering for additional interviews and groups. Committee expressed a desire to ensure that interviews and focus groups reached residents from every ward. The committee agreed to pair up for focus groups to ease note-taking and feedback gathering and discussed going through city staff to organize such pairings based on availability. City staff also volunteered to help find meeting locations and provide printouts for the meetings. Committee members agreed they wanted to meet again next month to check progress on the interviews and focus groups.

Wendy Sieger provided some tips on how to run a small group meeting, such as establishing general participation rules, making sure everyone gets to participate and share their feedback, or using a visual aid to keep track of feedback and notes such as a poster board.

The committee went over the documents to be used as a tool during the interviews and discussed a few edits. City staff confirmed they would get the agreed-upon edits done.

Public Comment

Toni Ray from Joining Forces for Affordable Housing / Connections for the Homeless and Interfaith Action commented that lots of people, including people their organization serves, are living in housing that cost them 50% or more. Many of them come to get food at the produce mobile because they spend so much on housing they cannot afford groceries. Ms. Ray noted that the committee was meeting with residents of the YMCA Men's residence but that shelter is only for men. She mentioned that First United Methodist Church and Connection for the Homeless was discussing creating a shelter for women and that it would be good to get feedback from women with housing instability issues as well. Ms. Ray suggested reaching out to Family Promise and YWCA to get feedback.

New/Old Business

December 18th and January 15th at 7 PM were confirmed as the next meetings date.

Adjournment

There being no further business before the committee, Ms. Revelle moved to adjourn at 8:32 PM, Ms. Murray seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Marion Johnson, Housing and Grants Intern