

HOUSING ADVISORY COMMITTEE
DRAFT Minutes
Basement Conference Room City Hall
September 15, 2010
12:00 pm

Attendance Record	Present	Absent
MEMBERS		
Art Lichtenberger		X
Charlie Armstrong	X	
Chris Murray	X	
Dan Rosensweig	X	
Jennifer Jacobs	X	
Joy Johnson		X
Karen Waters	X	
Kathy Galvin		X
Peter Loach	X	
Randy Bickers		X
Reed Banks		X
Richard Spurzem	X	
Ryan Jacoby	X	
Sasha Farmer	X	
Satyendra Huja	X	
Tony Waterfield		X
NON VOTING MEMBERS		
Ron White		
Vicki Hawes		
STAFF		
Kathy McHugh	X	
Melissa Thackston	X	
OTHERS		
Edith Good	X	

The meeting began at 12:05 PM with sandwiches provided for those in attendance.

Welcome: Charlie Armstrong welcomed everyone and then asked that the HAC members review the minutes and to advise of any necessary changes. With no further comments/discussion, a motion was made by Chris Murray to approve with a second from Karen Waters and the minutes were approved by unanimous vote of 10-0.

Updates from the Chair: Charlie Armstrong recognized Kathy McHugh for the purpose of discussing staff updates.

Kathy McHugh provided various handouts including information about the current Request for Proposal (RFP) being used by the City for the Housing Fund.

Attendees were then asked to complete a Housing Fund Survey if they had not already done so. These were collected and Ms. McHugh advised that she would provide the results to the group.

A second survey (one regarding the future of the Housing Advisory Committee – HAC) was then distributed with a discussion from various members (generally¹) as follows:

Karen Waters – Expressed that there is a sense of frustration due to lack of time to coordinate the process and time frame to do the work.

¹ Statements are taken from general notes and are not verbatim wording of comments made.

Peter Loach - Stated that he thinks subcommittees should drive the process.

Dan Rosensweig – During the summer months there is a lack of momentum that ensues and in the fall of the year this picks back up and then you can build on what has been done.

Charlie Armstrong – Committee has given significant input to City Council since its inception and have been able to “load up” recommendations sufficient for 10 years. Now it is time for staff to dig in and implement and change the HAC to an ad hoc committee.

Richard Spurzem – Suggested that now that we have subcommittees, we should work on new things.

Charlie Armstrong countered that the work would likely be duplicative of what has already been done because few recommendations differ from former incentives developed in the past.

Chris Murray added that he thinks that staff need to help housing providers to do work to lower cost of providing housing (e.g., provide engineering services, etc..)

Dan Rosensweig – HAC works well when there is a task to be done, so we don't throw the baby out with the bath water. Need to work on housing chapter of the comprehensive plan update.

Karen Waters – When she was a member of the Albemarle County Housing Committee, she learned a lot.

Kathy McHugh then advised that she understood that the County has discontinued their meetings, but Jen Jacobs thought it was only temporary.²

Sasha Farmer – It is not great to have long meetings that do not lead toward some end product. Need to do homework before hand and not overturn every rock.

Councilman Huja – Maybe staff can bring thing for action items.

Chris Murray – Concern over things falling into a vacuum.

Peter Loach – Subcommittees should come up with recommendations to go to Council.

Dan Rosensweig – We need to know what the rules are.

Councilman Huja – Subcommittees can do work and bring it back to the HAC.

Richard Spurzem – Don't want to come back to full committee and have things picked apart.

Dan Rosensweig – Need to have vesting from the full committee.

Peter Loach – Have subcommittee e-mail information around.

Karen Waters – need to have closure.

Chris Murray than moved to have October designated as a sub-committee meeting month and November as a full committee meeting month. Karen Waters seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Unknown - Suggested we need to look at the City Council calendar and work backward to get into sync with their schedule.

Charlie Armstrong – there needs to be more coordination

² Since that time, Kathy McHugh has spoken with Ron White and confirmed that in fact the group is simply taking a hiatus.

Nominations for Chairperson

Peter nominated Karen Waters and seconded by Jen Jacobs

Karen was agreeable to nomination but wanted to have a co-chair.

Dan Rosensweig then nominated Peter Loach, but Peter declined based on perceived conflict of interest with PHA.

Sasha Farmer then nominated Kathy Galvin and Councilman Huja seconded the nomination.

Charlie Armstrong suggested that we wait until Kathy Galvin was present and aware of the nomination prior to taking an official vote.

As for subcommittees, Karen Waters suggested that they meet every 3rd Wednesday at noon in place of the regular HAC meeting.

Unknown – RFP is a done deal this year. We need to try to organize and make it more user friendly for next year.

Unknown – Need to come up with a digest / newsletter of what funds have been used for in the past.

Unknown – RFP needs to be revised to have a clear way to score and maybe assign points. VHDA uses a system that is worth looking at.

As to subcommittee reports:

Kathy McHugh then suggested that everyone read the handout/report from Kathy Galvin as she was unable to come that day.

Karen Waters briefly discussed the subcommittee meeting of the funding group prior to the HAC. She suggested a joint meeting with the CDBG task force to which Melissa stated that she would be glad to set it up.

Chris Murray reported that his subcommittee discussed / would like to advocate for:

- reiterated prior objectives
- public / private partnerships
- look at land availability
- accessory dwelling units
- need to educate builders and developers to work with the City
- look at ways to provide incentives to the private sector so that they work on affordable housing

HAC Specific Actions

Kathy McHugh was to compile surveys completed by the group and provide results.

Other Business: Chris Murray - advised that while it is an obvious blatant conflict of interest - that service providers want to have a voice in how the money gets spent. Further, if there is no conflict that there is no business.

Meeting adjourned at 1:05 pm.