

HOUSING ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Minutes
Neighborhood Development Services Conference Room, City Hall
May 21, 2014
12:00 pm

Attendance Record	Present	Absent
MEMBERS		
Bob Hughes		X
Carmelita Wood	X	
Charlie Armstrong		X
Chris Murray	X	
Connie Dunn		X
Dan Rosensweig	X	
Frank Stoner	X	
Joyce Dudek	X	
Jennifer McKeever		X
Joy Johnson		X
Kaki Dimock		X
Kira Drennon	X	
Kristin Szakos	X	
Mark Watson	X	
Nancy Kidd	X	
Lesley Fore	X	
Ridge Schuyler		X
NON VOTING MEMBERS		
IMPACT		X
Ron White		X
Vicki Hawes		X
STAFF		
Kathy McHugh	X	
Margot Elton-Ratliff	X	
Melissa Thackston	X	
Missy Creasy	X	
Amanda Poncy	X	
Wendy Phelps	X	
Ebony Walden	X	
Carrie Rainey	X	
OTHERS		
Edith Good	X	
Lena Seville	X	
Tara Osborn, PHA Intern	X	

The meeting was called to order by Chris Murray at 12:04 pm.

The March 19, 2014 minutes were then considered. A motion to approve was made by Kristin Szakos, and seconded by Mark Watson. Vote to approve was unanimous.

Kathy McHugh then presented three announcements to the group:

- The Affordable Housing Policy Review, Formulation and Best Practices Subcommittee will be meeting in the interim month, on June 18th, to continue working on Policy 1. In the previous interim

month, this subcommittee met, and then a subset of this committee, comprised of Ridge Schuyler and Dan Rosensweig met to redraft Policy 1. This is still being tweaked further, and will be considered by the subcommittee in the next meeting, with the intention of bringing a draft back to the full HAC at the next meeting.

- The next full HAC meeting, where Policy 1 will be discussed once again, will be on July 16th.
- City Council has requested a work session on housing. While the date of this session is still to be determined, it is likely that it will be in August. Kristin Szakos informed the group that, with respect to schedule, the Councilors tentatively have August 7th on their schedule for a work session, so this may be the date. Kathy McHugh invited all HAC members to attend this work session, saying that the more members that could be there, the better. This meeting, as all Council work sessions, will be open to the public.

Following these announcements, Kathy McHugh introduced the video that would be screened. The video is a recording of a presentation by Dr. Ruby Payne, an internationally recognized expert on poverty. Dr. Payne presented in Charlottesville in April, at an event hosted by Habitat for Humanity, and the presentation had been videotaped. As the issues surrounding poverty underlie many housing issues, Kathy McHugh thought that this would be an interesting and helpful video to screen for the HAC.

Screening of Dr. Ruby Payne's presentation from April 9, 2014
"Becoming a Community of Practice: Bridges out of Poverty"

Following the screening, the group had a discussion about which pieces of the presentation had stayed with them, whether they had any personal experiences that correlated with the topics raised in the presentation, and how the topics raised in the presentation would influence future work and interactions.

Some points that were mentioned:

- The idea of hidden rules being different for those in poverty, those in the middle class, and the wealthy. We don't immediately realize what an effect these hidden rules can have on our interactions, and the pain that not knowing the rules of other groups can impose.
- When you have an interaction where you come away thinking someone behaved badly, consider the possibility that they are operating under a different set of hidden rules that might have dictated their behavior.
- Much of our planning, in Charlottesville and across the country, is based in white middle class values, and we often don't realize that not everyone holds these same values and priorities. How do we plan for the future of our City and take into account that the various groups living in Charlottesville don't all share the same background, perspectives, and priorities?
- Often perception can be worse than reality – negative perceptions of those in poverty can be dispelled by interactions with individuals.
- Learning multiple sets of hidden rules can help us become better and more informed people and citizens.
- We have a tendency to rescue people who may not want to be rescued. Better to find way to empower people so they can solve their own problems than try to rescue them and fix their problems for them.

The meeting was then adjourned at approximately 1:30 pm. The next meeting of the full HAC will be on July 16th, with the subcommittee meeting in the interim month to continue work on Policy 1.