

HOUSING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Notes
February 15, 2007

Present:

Overton McGehee
Dave Norris
Cheri Lewis
Charlie Armstrong
Art Lichtenberger
Donna Smith – Region Ten
Mike Heckman
Peter Loach
Vicki Hawes
Carol Clarke
Natasha Sienitsky

Joy Johnson
Noah Schwartz
Theresa Tapscott
Ron White

Absent:

Angela Vanderhoof
Theresa Deese

Staff:

Amy Kilroy

Guests:

Dave Phillips, CAAR

Summary of Meeting Notes:

- Charlie called the meeting to order at 12:15, and rearranged the agenda to give Dave time to eat lunch and get settled
- Cheri gave a brief update on the status of the Workforce Housing Fund. First loan made last month, Board will be meeting again in March and will hopefully have more information to provide after that meeting. Will check in again at our March HAC mtg.
 - Discussion about who can receive assistance from the Workforce Housing Fund and whether or not it is possible to consolidate the multiple programs we currently have for providing Downpayment Assistance to families. We don't want to be duplicating efforts, but also don't want to be excluding any clients due to eligibility requirements.
 - PHA is currently the best facility based upon services offered to get prospective buyers through the counseling piece associated with purchasing a home. Many other organizations refer their clients to PHA to receive services.
 - How to better advertise PHA's Regional Homeownership Center (RHOC)? It is a clearinghouse for housing opportunities available in our city and region. How to also get individuals/families to go directly to the lenders as well?
- Dave Phillips from CAAR spoke next about their upcoming Housing Conference. Information about the conference is continuously updated on the following website: www.housingforum.caar.com
 - So far have been in contact with University – event will be held on-Grounds, and will seek to have University further involved in participating.

- Date of Conference is April 30, 2007 from 9:00 – 3:00, all members of the Housing Committee are certainly invited to attend. Participants will be able to register on-line. Name of Conference is “*Central Virginia Community Workforce Housing Forum*”
- Working on recruiting speakers from other university towns to hear about their best practices for providing housing and exploring other opportunities within the community. Currently have speakers in mind from California to come present.
- The focus of the Conference will be Workforce Housing – including but not limited to using university owned land to build employee housing, how best to link that housing with transportation, involving local governments in partnership with universities and financing options for feasibility.
- Reference was made to PHA’s recent efforts to help build housing for employees of Wintergreen – (incorporates similar concepts)
- Dave will continue to keep us updated as progress is made on setting up the conference.
- Suggestions for speakers/presenters include: the firm of Ayers Saint Gross, the Urban Land Institute, and LISC.
- Questions Raised include:
 1. What other programs will be represented besides the ones in California? – Dave mentioned still doing research, suggestions are welcome.
 2. Who is the target audience for the conference? – Roughly 200 people, it will be open to everyone, but also targeted at Realtor Associations, Housing Committee members, local businesses, university representatives.
 3. How to target the conference at other local businesses besides the university?
- Update on Status of Affordable Housing Conference – The Fab Four:
 - Since our last meeting Carol made phone calls to the Chamber, United Way and WINA who have each expressed interest in being part of conference
 - Charlie suggested that the Blue Ridge Homebuilders Association would be interested in participating and possibly providing financial support as well
 - Comments were raised about the focus of our conference still being undecided – what is it that this committee hopes to accomplish by organizing an event?
 - Reviewing the pros and cons of a conference being practitioner oriented vs. client oriented. A majority of the conferences tend to be practitioner based while the PHAR conference is client based. Point is to make information available on a broader spectrum.

- HAC will ask representatives to attend both the upcoming CAAR and PHAR conferences to gather ideas and we will revisit the idea of organizing a HAC conference on a future agenda.
- Create an evaluation or assessment tool to have participants complete after the CAAR conference and use suggestions as a springboard for moving forward.
- Questions Raised include:
 1. Who is going to be the primary point person for running the conference logistics? -
 2. Who and where do the next steps come from in organizing? –
 3. What is the point of HAC organizing its own conference and what does HAC envision happening within the community after the conference is over?
 4. Do we want to throw our support behind several of the other conferences already being planned rather than creating another one?
- In the interests of time remaining and overall quality of discussion – move the agenda item involving the TJPDC / Housing Directors report to the next meeting.
 - Ron mentioned the idea of combining our next regular meeting with that of Albemarle County’s Housing Committee in order to receive a joint presentation from Mrs. Billie Campbell of TJPDC about the report. Date will be set for March 8th (date of County’s next meeting)
 - Document and recommendations can be found at:
<http://www.tjpd.org/pdf/housing/StateofHousingReport.pdf>
- **Next meeting date is set for: Thursday, March 8th @ 12:30** (location – Charlottesville Albemarle Visitors Center, lower level of Market Street parking garage)