

Minutes of the Affordable Housing Council (AHC) Meeting

Tuesday, July 9, 2019

2:30 pm to 4:00 pm

Citizens Services Division Building – Main Conference Room
401 Sagner Avenue, Frederick, MD 21701

MINUTES OF MEETING

Call to Order: Mark Long, Vice Chair called the meeting to order at 2.37 P.M. and welcomed everyone.

Members Present: Mark Long, Vice-Chair; Marva Younger, Secretary; Angie Liddiard; Bruce Zavos; Diane Bill; Malcolm Furgol; Hugh Gordon; Kandy Alexander; Mary Ellen Mitchell; Jason Wiley; and Patricia Galloway.

Member(s) Absent: Kimberly Ashkenazi, Chair.

Public Officials/Staff Liaisons Present: Derek Shackelford, Frederick Alderman; Jessica Fitzwater, County Council; Monica Bearden, Director, FC, Citizens Services Division; and Milton Bailey, Director, DHCD.

Visitors Present: Diana Fulchirm, Community Foundation; Roger Sobkowiak, HRC; James Baker, United Way; Robin Inskeep, FCG; Theresa Wyatt; Jodie Ostoich, IHA; Kara Norman, Downtown Frederick Partnership; Rachel Gardner, IHA; and Alexandra Vasquez, The Vasquez Team of Charis Realty Group.

Minutes of June 11th: Kandy moved to approve the minutes; seconded by Bruce and unanimously approved.

Agenda was approved: Hugh moved to approve the agenda with the addition of presentation by Allie Vasquez; seconded by Patricia and unanimously approved.

Public Comment:

Jodie asked AHC to support IHA campaign “Day of Giving” on July 11th to raise \$10,000. Money raised will strengthen communities by providing affordable housing opportunities and supportive services to improve the quality of life and economic stability for seniors, working families, and individuals. Jodie distributed a colorful postcard highlighting the “Day of Giving” by the Interfaith Housing Alliance (IHA).

Mary Ellen thanked the AHC for supporting “Housing Frederick County”, a nonprofit resource for the housing continuum in Frederick County. Mary Ellen will be opening her office in the Federated Charities building at 22 South Market Street on July 22.

Presentation – Allie Vasquez, Charis Realty Group -- Ms. Vasquez’s team works exclusively with persons who need upgrades or improvements to get their house ready to go on the market for sale. These improvements may include electrical/plumbing, kitchen/bath upgrades, interior/external painting, roofing, decluttering, interior design and staging. Ms. Vasquez noted that the fee for her service is paid from the owner's proceeds once the house is sold. She would like to connect with seniors wanting to sell their home who may not be in a position to afford upgrades on their own.

Strategic Planning Session -- It was suggested to have the strategic planning session in October or November rather than August or September. Hugh will set up another doodle poll and resend to AHC. Stakeholders and interested parties are invited to attend the planning session. It was also suggested to review the existing Strategic Action Plan before the planning session. For resource materials, Mark will send links to the existing Strategic Plan and the Guidebook on Increasing Housing Affordability by Dr. Lisa Sturtevant to AHC members and stakeholders. Roger would like all ideas and suggestions to be submitted to him in preparation for the planning session

Messaging Committee – Hugh noted that the videos featuring “The Places of Affordable Housing” will be completed within the next few weeks.

Hugh is also creating a listing with contact information of services offered in Frederick County. This listing will assist residents to readily locate services in the County. The AHC members applauded Hugh for undertaking this task.

Ad Hoc Workgroup – Impact Fees, APFO, and Affordable Housing Overlay Zone -- Mark and Kimberly are scheduled to meet with County Executive Gardner on July 30 to propose an Ad Hoc Workgroup to be composed of representatives of the building community, housing consumers, community members, affordable housing providers, and other stakeholders. The Ad Hoc Workgroup will reassess the Impact Fees, Adequately Public Facilities Ordinance (APFO), and Affordable Housing Overlay Zone.

Liaison Reports

Alderman Derek Shackelford – The City of Frederick will be revisiting the Adequately Public Facilities Ordinance (APFO) during the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Wednesdays in August at 3:00 PM. These meetings will be televised.

Derek also noted that the City has no parameters or guidelines on how the reserve funds (\$100,000) for affordable housing will be used. Several members expressed suggestions about how funds may be used; however, Mark requested AHC to submit recommendations/suggestions in writing to the AHC Executive Board. The recommendations/suggestions will be presented to AHC to be prioritized for decision making.

Council Member Jessica Fitzwater – The proposed bill to allocate 1.5 percent of the proceeds from the recordation tax to the Housing Initiative Fund (HIF) will be presented at the County

Council public hearing on July 23 at 7:00 PM. Jessica will be advocating to raise the allocation percentage higher than 1.5 percent. Also, Jessica encouraged AHC to support this initiative by writing letters/statements and/or attending the hearing.

Announcement – Jason Wiley -- Jason reported that the Builders Association will host a breakfast session on affordable housing at Dutch’s Daughters on September 10th at 8:00 AM.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:50 pm.

Next AHC meeting is August 13th.

Minutes submitted by
Marva Younger, Secretary