

NORTHAMPTON HOUSING PARTNERSHIP

Minutes

April 2, 2018

Members Present: Rev. Todd Weir, Chair, Mark Goggins, Richard Abuza, Julio Alves, Mike Roy, Kyla Prior, Gordon Shaw, Jim Reis. Also present, Peg Keller, staff. Members absent; Edgar Cancel, Becky Lockwood, Patrick Boughan.

Call to Order: Chair Weir called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m. The minutes from the March meeting were approved as submitted.

Annual Action Plan Review

Chair Weir began the discussion by asking members what they want to make sure we accomplish in the coming year. The priorities identified were:

- Fair Housing - Analysis of Impediments
- Housing Stabilization - monitoring and finding funding for the CHSSP
- Community Education (at the core of our activity components)
- Advocacy for Zoning Revisions

Mike noted a goal could be to have been so successful with community education, that creation of new units would be widely accepted because all would be aware of the need. Members then worked their way through the draft action plan noting the following:

Housing Stabilization

The Northampton Housing Partnership sponsored Community Housing Support Services Project (CHSSP) existing funding will last 18 months. In the 6 months left before the new year of funding begins, we need to do the research to identify long term funding solutions (as the Community Preservation funds will probably not be available again) A meeting is being held next week with Center for Human Development staff, Peg and Gordon where this message will be delivered and a strategy developed. There is a contract between the Housing Partnership and CHD that Peg will review with the NHP describing requirements and accomplishment milestones. Jim noted DHCD, Community Action and Wayfinders Housing Consumer Education Center's as possible

fundings, as well as Meadowbrook and the Northampton Housing Authority. Kyla requested a specific timetable to insure we stay on track to locate funding. Peg noted that the Tenancy Preservation Project and the SRO Outreach Program also function in the community to stabilize housing. Specific tasks related to advocating for them will be spelled out further in the next Action Plan draft.

Op Ed's

A description of the aforementioned housing stabilization activities could be a future OP Ed topic. Kyla has the initial research for the project that she conducted as a Smith student! Quarterly submission schedule to the Gazette should continue, with pertinent topics identified as we move through the year. Lead Paint one is ready to go. (Submit final comments by Friday April 6/ thank you Patrick and Jim) Piece on refugee families still on hold. Kyla suggested in the future, a retrospective on the Live 155 project could be of interest.

Fair Housing - Analysis of Impediments

Sub- committee has met; Kyla reported on the timeline. Monthly updates will be provided to the full Partnership.

- March 28th/ Met to review sample RFP's
- April 11/ Meet to solicit comments on components to include in ours
- April 30th/ Peg will draft, circulate and release
- Month of May/ time period for people to respond
- June: Conduct interviews, make selection
- July- December 2018/ Project Implementation

Community Education

○ **Annual report, presentation to the City Council**

Members agreed both should occur; decided to plan for January/February 2019; will revisit in December 2018 as fall and spring are busy times for the Council. Annual summit could be done in conjunction with the Analysis of Impediments to launch the implementation recommendations, or to feature pertinent topics. Gordon mentioned rent control is being discussed again in eastern Mass.

○ **Landlord Workshops**

Peg noted the January Mayor letter with a February workshop invitation schedule seems to be working. Gordon said there was a request for info. on code enforcement so maybe that could be included in the next session.

- **(OP ED's addressed above)**

- Peg will bring power point on development opportunities in the City done at a public forum in 2013 to a future meeting.

Community Collaborations

Jim noted we should have an idea of what to suggest for possible areas of collaboration prior to inviting people/organizations to meetings. Develop schedule and at monthly meeting prior to someone coming, discuss what to put forth/ask.

Membership

Add more members representing the constituents we are serving.

Next Steps/ Todd and Peg will work together to transfer the goals, timing and implementation responsibilities to an excel spreadsheet for tracking purposes, and add a column for monthly progress. This will then be circulated electronically for review. Members were asked to send any additional thoughts in the next couple weeks. Peg will contact the Rec. Department for use of their van for a tour of affordable housing to coincide with the June meeting. Rotating meeting locations for the Partnership is also something to be planned and scheduled.

Adjourn/ There being no further business to discuss, the meeting concluded at 7:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Peg Keller