

## **NORTHAMPTON HOUSING PARTNERSHIP**

Minutes

July 9, 2018

**Members Present:** Rev. Todd Weir, Chair, Patrick Boughan, Vice-Chair, Gordon Shaw, Jim Reis, Kyla Prior, Edgar Cancel, Mike Roy, Mark Goggins. Also present, Peg Keller, staff and Alex Jarrett, an interested citizen. **Meeting Location:** Community Room, Hampshire Heights Housing Complex.

**Call to Order:** Chair Weir convened the meeting at 5:35 p.m. The minutes from the June meeting were approved as amended.

### **Hampshire Heights Activity Update**

Edgar reported on a number of events happening at the housing complex including movie nights, opioid epidemic education and Narcan use instruction, recycling, food distribution by Casa Latina, Healthy Hampshire and Grow Food Northampton. The residents have an application in to the Housing Authority to create a formal tenants association. The process has taken a long time, but they hope to have their association recognized and sanctioned, with an operating budget, soon.

### **Guest Welcomed**

Chair Weir acknowledged Mr. Jarrett and asked what brought him to the meeting. Mr. Jarrett operates the Peddle People organization and it is important to him that the community be able to offer diverse housing options for his employees. He himself purchased a home with three other (non-related) people and wants to encourage that as an ownership model. Chair Weir then provided some background on the work of the Partnership. He was thanked for his interest.

### **Van Tour Feedback**

Peg asked members about their impressions of the housing observed on the van tour. Kyla said she was not aware that affordable housing locations were so spread out across the City and on the outskirts. Mr. Alves question at the end of the tour - how do people access the housing - is a valid question that the Partnership should work on, with increased information on the City's website. Barriers to access will be a topic in the Analysis of Impediments, as well. It was agreed we should conduct the tour biennially.

### **Analysis of Impediments - Consultant Selection Update**

The Request for Qualifications will be sent out tomorrow. Todd, Gordon, Jim, Julio, Kyla, Becky and Mike offered to participate in the interviews. Questions should be determined ahead of time, so each consultant is asked a similar set for comparison purposes. Kyla will doodle the group to determine dates. The proposals will be

returned, questions defined, interviews scheduled, held and consultant selected to begin work on August 1st.

### **Zoning Sub-Committee**

Patrick reported that there has been no movement in the Planning Office. He said there was some negative public reaction to the infill article. Jim suggested that a future OP ED topic could be "Green Zoning". It was suggested that Wayne and/or Carolyn be invited to a Partnership meeting for an update on planning and zoning activity.

### **Community Housing Support Services Program Update**

Peg reported that the Coordinator that was finally hired, has resigned (3 months after her hiring). She said the Center for Human Development is not as responsive as they could be to their Northampton Programs and posited that the Partnership might want to consider putting out another RFP for a different agency to administer the program. The motion to investigate this possibility was made and seconded; the vote in favor was unanimous. Peg has a meeting scheduled with the CHD Program Supervisors. She will report back after that meeting to plan a course of action.

### **OP ED**

Kyla said she would begin to draft a piece on the value of housing stabilization programs that prevent homelessness. The SRO Outreach Program, the Tenancy Preservation Program and our CHSSP would be featured.

### **Special Topics Sub-Committee**

Patrick reported that he, Jim, Mike, Kyla and Julio had volunteered for this group. The charge will be to dive more deeply into topics the Partnership as a whole does not have time to devote to. Patrick has put important Partnership documents on a Google drive to share and research on topics has begun. The sub-committee will meet later in July and early August, and report back in September.

### **September Meeting**

The meeting will be held on Sept. 10th, as the first Monday is Labor Day. Patrick and Todd will update the work plan. Wayne and Carolyn will be invited to the October meeting and arrangements will be made to hold the meeting at Meadowbrook Apartments.

**Adjourn/** The meeting concluded at 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Peg Keller