

Planning & Sustainability • City of Northampton

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Housing Partnership
5:30 PM, Monday January 9th,
2023

Zoom Meeting

Members

Carmen Junno, Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Edgardo Cancel	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Hannah Shaffer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Gordon Shaw, Vice Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Gwen Nabad	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Richard Abuza	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ace Tayloe	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Bev Bates	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sara Howard	<input type="checkbox"/>	Staff: Keith Benoit	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

1. Chair gave notice that the meeting is being recorded.
2. Introductions & public comment. No public comment.
3. The Partnership did not have quorum so could not vote on the minutes.
4. Discussion of Municipal Affordable Housing Trust Fund. The partnership has been discussing this for a long time. Both the Mayor and Carolyn Misch were not enthusiastic about creating a MAHTF. There have been several people expressing the Housing Partnership support to housing at public meetings. Carmen Junno said that the partnership should table the discussion for the moment. Richard Abuza said that the point is taken and there is something lost when the Housing Partnership is not reviewing housing projects, such as previously done with CDBG. Edgardo Cancel said that giving up on the MAHTF is too soon. Hannah Shaffer thought the meeting too close to the holidays and that she would be excited to be on a subcommittee to discuss the MAHTF. Gordon Shaw said that there is not a lot of city official support for it and that there is currently not a funding source for it. Gwen Nabad still thinks that something could come out of a subcommittee. Edgard Cancel said that he would be interested in continuing the discussion. Richard Abuza said that the partnership is not discussing the creation of a MAHTF and that the statehouse has housing as a top priority, there may be funding that only goes to MAHTF. Gwen Nabad is always willing to support housing and the partnership needs to look at housing in the long term.
5. Subcommittee for MAHTF: Gwen Nabad, Hannah Shaffer, and Edgardo Cancel



6. Staff member Keith Benoit presented to the Housing Partnership the Municipal Engagement Lite program from CHAPA. This would be a voluntary training program run by CHAPA to help Northampton better support the construction of housing (especially affordable housing), public education, and community engagement. The main idea is to help create a local coalition of organizations and people that work towards housing challenge. CHAPA calls it an intense yearlong collaboration with CHAPA, the City, and stakeholders. This will be a heavy lift, it will not be easy. If the City were to apply, CHAPA will want to focus project, which may be the future affordable housing on Crafts Ave. (behind City Hall) or another project at Hospital Hill. The City would need the Housing Partnership's enthusiastic support before it applies to the program.
7. Gwen Nabad motioned to apply for the CHAPA program, seconded by Gordon Shaw, voted unanimously by a roll call vote.
8. The Housing Partnership approved the Nov. 7th minutes unanimously by a roll call vote. Edgar Motioned and seconded by Gwen Nabad.
9. Independent Housing Solutions should be open by Feb. 1st with 15 residents. Broker Fees and the Real Estate Transfer Fee has no update.
10. Laura Baker gave an update on Valley CD's projects around the City.
11. Meeting ended at 6:24 PM