

NORTHAMPTON HOUSING PARTNERSHIP

Minutes

April 1, 2019

Members Present: Chair Todd Weir, Vice-Chair Patrick Boughan, Kyla Prior, Becky Lockwood, Gordon Shaw, Alex Jarret, Julio Alves, Jim Reis, Richard Abuza, new member Carmen Junno and Peg Keller, staff.

Call To Order: Chair Weir called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m. Members introduced themselves to new member Carmen Junno. She offered that she is newly retired from 13 years at the Veterans Administration campus in Leeds, working with Veterans in the areas of housing search and case management. Minutes from the March meeting were approved as submitted (Richard and Carmen abstained). Chair Weir said with 3 new members, (Carmen, Dan and Alex), plans will be made for a new member orientation.

Fair Housing Committee Update

Members agreed that PVPC would be invited to attend the May meeting to present their preliminary findings and strategize about the May 22nd public session. Peg reported that surveys are out to a variety of locations as a result of suggestions made by the Partnership at the last meeting. Additional outreach has been made to organizations working with people of color. A final focus group with people being released from the Hampshire County House of Corrections is scheduled for April 8th at the Northampton Recovery Center. The remainder of April will be spent with PVPC writing the draft report.

CDBG Draft Action Plan

Peg reviewed the components of the draft funding plan. Chair Weir described the public services process, in which he represents the Partnership. Members asked to see the plan earlier in the cycle next year. Vice-Chair Boughan made a motion to recommend Mayoral support for the funding allocations, seconded by Mr. Abuza. The vote in favor was unanimous.

Op-Ed

The current draft was reviewed. Jim asked for revisions by Wednesday with plans for a May submission. The draft needs to be reviewed by the Mayor. Kyla and Jim were thanked for their work on this piece.

Policy Sub-Committee Updates (Members – Patrick, Julio, Jim)

New Member Guide

Kyla submitted her latest draft and Jim has worked on it as well. It was agreed that no member emails would be included, only staff. Members discussed a drop box for documents relative to open meeting law compliance. Kyla was thanked for her work preparing this important communication tool for new members.

Follow up from Meeting with Planning Board Chair (T.Poe)

The Committee will work on policy statements to put on the web. These can be used by the Planning Board for context during controversial housing project review sessions. Tess Poe has offered to attend Partnership meetings as a Planning Board liaison.

Zoning Sub-Committee (Jim Patrick, Alex)

Vice-Chair Boughan created a memo to send to the Community Preservation Committee regarding bonding for affordable housing projects. The Mayor's offer to assign Air B and B revenue funds to support affordable housing projects was discussed. Patrick said the Dept. of Revenue will create a database over the summer to identify the universe of affected units. Members suggested that the Mayor be made aware of their desire to participate in the decision making process regarding the use of funds. Members are excited the Mayor has made this commitment, although they are aware the sums may be small.

Ms. Prior made a motion, seconded by Mr. Reis, that the Mayor consider, when formulating the Ordinance for receipt of these funds, that the Partnership play a role in the decision making process regarding the use of these funds, in the form of recommendations to the Mayor. The **vote** in favor was unanimous.

Playground Committee (Alex, Becky, Patrick)

Peg reported on conversations with Jack Redman at the Housing Authority about moving ahead on playground projects for their family developments. She said going to the CPC is a simpler process than utilizing CDBG funds. She will coordinate with Sarah Bankert, at Healthy Hampshire, who is in the process of engaging residents in a Community Gardens project at the developments. Peg will check in with Edgar Cancel about moving forward.

Membership Drive

Alex Jarrett noted that people often cannot secure or afford child care or transportation to allow for participation on Boards and Committees that could benefit from their involvement. He wondered if a local non-profit could be a repository for donations from the general public to cover such costs for interested citizens. Perhaps there could

be an income threshold to insure participation of those with lower incomes. Peg suggested Leadership Pioneer Valley might be an option. Chair Weir will follow up with them. Members loved this suggestion. Churches might be another option. If the City held it, it could support such membership for all City Boards and Committees. Peg will talk to the Mayor.

Miscellaneous



- A farewell party was held for Kyla Prior, as she is moving out of town and can no longer serve on the Partnership. She was thanked for her many contributions.
- Chair Weir reminded members he will be unable to attend the May, June and July meetings.

Adjourn

The meeting concluded at 7:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Peg Keller

Task	Responsible Party	Deadline	Completed
Op Ed / Review and submit	Peg and Jim	April 24, 2019	✓
Finish New Member Guide	Peg and Jim	April 30, 2019	
Schedule New Member Orientation	Peg and Patrick	May 17, 2019	
Communicate to the Mayor re: Partnership role in reviewing CDBG Action Plan earlier next year	Peg to Mayor	April, for implementation January-March 2020	✓
Communicate to the Mayor re: NHP role in Air B&B \$ expenditures	Peg to Mayor	April 2019	✓
Playground Committee Meeting	Peg to Schedule	May 2019	✓
Fund for Board Involvement	Peg – Mayor Todd - LPV	April 2019 ?	