



## BROWARD HOUSING COUNCIL MINUTES

**CALL TO ORDER:** A regular meeting of the Broward Housing Council was held on December 17, 2010, commencing at 10:00 a.m., at the African American Research Library and Cultural Center (AARLCC), located at 2650 Sistrunk Boulevard, Seminar Room 2, Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

**ROLL CALL:** Roll call was conducted by Ms. Elizabeth Kersting

**Council Members Present:**

|                                |   |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Richard Barkett                | John Primeau                                    |
| James Carras                   | Gary Shimun                                     |
| (Ann Deibert for) Kevin Cregan | Lisa Vecchi                                     |
| Patricia Good                  | Lori Moseley, Mayor, City of Miramar            |
| Mercedes Nunez                 | Lois Wexler, Chair, Broward County Commissioner |

**Council Members Absent:**

|                   |                                 |
|-------------------|---------------------------------|
| Anthony Abbate    | Tina Mulligan                   |
| George Castrataro | Dr. Rosalind Osgood, Vice Chair |
| Cynthia Chambers  | Anita Fain Taylor               |
| Paul Figg         |                                 |

**Staff:**

|                |                    |                |
|----------------|--------------------|----------------|
| Angela Chin    | Suzanne Fejes      | Ralph Stone    |
| Patrice Eichen | Elizabeth Kersting | Michael Wright |

### **I. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

*MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Shimun and seconded by Mayor Moseley to approve the Minutes of the Broward Housing Council meeting of October 22, 2010, as submitted. The Motion was passed by a unanimous voice vote.*

### **II. NEW BUSINESS**

#### **A. Introduce New Housing Council Member**

Chair Commissioner Wexler introduced and welcomed Ms. Patricia Good as the new appointee to the Broward Housing Council representing the Broward County School Board. Ms. Good provided a brief background of her credentials including her recent election to the Broward County School Board representing District #2 (Cities of Miramar, Pembroke Pines, Cooper City, Southwest Ranch and portions of the Town of Davie). She also spoke about her work with the Miami-Dade Public Schools where she served in various capacities for over 24 years. Ms. Good replaced Ms. Phyllis Hope.

#### **B. Reappointment/Appointments to the Broward County Housing Council**

Chair Commissioner Wexler stated that at the December 14, 2010 County Commission meeting, reappointments and appointments were made for Council Members to serve another 2 year term. She indicated the Mr. James Carras had previously stated he did not intend to serve another 2 year term and thanked him for his dedication and commitment to the Council. She mentioned that council member George

Castrataro who currently serves as Community Representative non-voting member was appointed to replace Mr. Carras category as an owner of a business with fewer than 50 employees. She also mentioned that Ms. Monica Navarro representing the Urban League of Broward County was appointed to fill Mr. Bill Thompson category as Community Representative voting member. Mr. Thompson relocated from Broward County.

### **III. OLD BUSINESS**

#### **A. Status update: Board Policies on Attendance, Section 1-233, Broward County Administrative Code of Ordinance**

Ms. Patrice Eichen, Assistant County Attorney, Broward County Attorney's Office provided an update on the Ordinance regarding the Housing Council Attendance Policy. A copy was provided to each council member. She stated that this Policy was brought before the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) and was approved on December 14, 2010. She went over the attendance policy stressing to members that all BOCC appointees will be automatically removed if there are three (3) consecutive unexcused absences or four (4) missed properly noticed meetings in one (1) calendar year. Ms. Eichen reviewed and explained the criteria listed for excused absences noting that an excused absence was considered only if a member was doing business for the Council. *Ms. Mercedes Nunez entered the meeting at 10:15 a.m.* Ms. Eichen further stated that attendance records will be forwarded to Broward County's Office of Intergovernmental Affairs and Professional Standards within two (2) weeks after each meeting to determine attendance compliance. She informed staff regarding those members not present at the meeting as well as the new appointees can contact her directly should they have any questions or need further explanation concerning attendance policy. *Ms. Eichen left the meeting at 10:20am.*

### **IV. NEW BUSINESS**

#### **A. Website Development Approach**

Chair Commissioner Wexler briefly discussed the outcome of the prioritization of recommendations received from the Affordable Housing Summit that have been included as a component to the proposed 2011 Work Program. Mr. Stone mentioned that one of the highest ranked priorities on the work program was the development of a comprehensive affordable housing web site. Mr. Stone provided an overview of the content of the web site. He stated that the staff met internally with the Office of Public Communications staff and the Geographic Information Systems Section Manager due to their expertise in design, implementation and maintenance of web sites development. He stated that the web site would include, but not limited to, information from federal, state and local affordable housing agencies, not-for-profit, for-profit, and the business community referencing education/training opportunities, funding and resource information, legislative information, etc. He discussed the possibility of creating an affordable housing user group to help define the content of the web site as well as making sure the web site is in compliance with the American Disabilities Act (ADA). Mr. Stone recommended that the affordable housing web site be developed in phases which will shape the direction for all further efforts on the project. He stated that the first preliminary phase will be presented to the Council at the June meeting for board approval. Mr. Stone also spoke about the operational phase of the web site which he stated would need a mid-level associate planner person with knowledge of web site management and development skills. He mentioned that the estimated salary for this position would be approximately \$50,000 a year including benefits. In terms of the cost to maintain the website with the technology used, Mr. Stone stated that it was presently \$500.00 per month or \$6,000 per year. He proposed that the annual budget estimated cost would be approximately \$64,000 (\$50,000 for website development, \$12,500 for staffing for the remainder of this fiscal year, and \$1,500 for website hosting). Mr. Stone requested that the Housing Council approve the phased approach as defined and discussed, approve the FY 2011 project budget of \$64,000, and authorize the Chair to make a request to the

County Administrator for a budget supplement to cover the project cost of \$64,000. There was a lengthy discussion among the members with suggestions in terms of the development, implementation and cost of the website. Mr. Primeau and Mr. Carras requested further clarification with regards to the cost of web site development, the issuing of the Request for Proposal (RFP) to develop the web site, and whether there will be an in-house person to maintain site. Mr. Stone responded accordingly stating that the development of the website will cost a one-time \$50,000, and that the work being done for the next three months will be pro bono. Chair Commissioner Wexler recommended that a Housing Council member volunteer to assist with the oversight of this project and to make a report at the next Housing Council meeting. Mr. Carras volunteered to be a part of the affordable housing user group working through staff on the development of this project.

*MOTION: A motion was made by Mayor Moseley seconded by Ms. Nunez to approve the phased approach as defined in the discussion above and approve a supplemental budget of \$64,000 and authorize the Chair to request that the County Administrator provide a funding supplement to the Housing Council's FY 2011 operating budget to cover the project cost of \$64,000. The Motion was passed by a unanimous voice vote.*

## **B. FY 2010/2011 Work Program**

Mr. Stone spoke briefly about the updates to the proposed 2011 Work Program. He stated that two Areas of Emphasis on the work program were expanded to include entitlement cities supporting foreclosure counseling and education and local governments and the private sector funding housing for youth transitioning out of foster care.

Chair Commissioner Wexler made reference to an article that she provided to Mr. Stone regarding a recent community based event that took place in West Palm Beach and her request for Mr. Stone to do a follow up with Ms. Suzanne Weiss of Neighborhood Housing Services who had taken part in that event. She felt that information brought back would be an important component to have for a county-wide event to take place in Broward County in 2011 in connection with the banking and mortgage industries who are interested in being a part of this venture. She spoke about continued budget cuts and emphasized that under foreclosure, counseling and education this event would be a huge component to reach out to people in the community who are still struggling.

Mr. Stone spoke about Florida's Hardest-Hit Fund and approximately \$44 million being allocated to Broward County with the maximum award per household will be \$30k and will be used to make current and prepay monthly mortgages for up to 18 months. He stated that these funds will be to addresses the mortgage foreclosure crisis that Broward County is still facing. He stated that the counseling component will be done by certified counselors from agencies such as the Housing Authorities of Broward County and Neighborhood Housing Services.

Chair Commissioner Wexler continued her review of the work plan in terms of the Homelessness: Transitional and Permanent Housing component. She mentioned the new language added to the work program in terms of youths aging out of foster care, particularly working with and trying to support the Transitional for Independent Living goal of 100 new units for the next five years to attain a total of 500 new units by 2015.

Mr. Michael Wright, Broward County's Homeless Initiative Partnership Administrator, provided an update on Homelessness in the County. He stated that basically what determines Broward County's needs is the Homeless Point-In-Time Count which is conducted every two years. He informed about the upcoming Homeless Point-In-Time Count which will begin on January 24-25, 2011. He further stated that at the moment the County's budget has not allocated new funds for homelessness. He noted that no services will be cut for

the homeless this year nor will there be beds lost. He stated that this Point-in-Time Count would create an opportunity to receive additional funds. Mr. Wright spoke of their outreach efforts in conjunction with the Broward County Police Chiefs Association and Reach Out to Give Encampment. He stated that he will send out an email to the council members so they can provide data of where the homeless congregate which he stated would be helpful in their outreach team efforts. He noted the consequences of the economy which is causing major cutbacks in donations as well as cutbacks in staff. He mentioned the donation of 1,000 Hygiene kits that were received to provide water to the homeless on the streets. He also informed of the expansion of the four shelters they have to accommodate homeless which he anticipate will be more this year due to all the factors that were mentioned prior. *Mr. Richard Barkett left the meeting at 10:55am.*

There was a lengthy discussion amongst council members regarding the Homeless needs and the participation from the council in supporting Broward County's Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness. Mr. Wright indicated that the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) focus is prevention and rapid re-housing. He stated that HUD no longer will fund transitional housing projects. He also stated that HUD's two major emphasis for the sub-population count of the homeless is to track youths between the ages of 18-24 years old and veterans. He noted that most of the funds coming from HUD for the Homeless are being directed towards chronically homeless veterans who served in the military with honorable discharge. Mr. Stone suggested one measure for the council to undertake include requesting collaboration with the entitlement cities to match funds with the county to build multi-family homes.

*MOTION: A motion was made by Mr. Primeau seconded by Mayor Moseley to approve the FY 2011 Work Program as submitted. The Motion was passed by a unanimous voice vote.*

*Mr. Jim Carras left the meeting at 11:10.*

## **V. Informational Only**

### **A. Florida Housing Finance Corporation (FHFC) Resources for Affordable Housing**

### **B. Florida Hardest-Hit Fund (HFF)**

Chair Commissioner Wexler stated that the information regarding the FHFC and HFF were distributed to the council members for informational purposes.

## **VI. NEXT MEETING**

Date: Friday, February 25, 2011  
Time: 10:00 a.m.  
Location: African America Research Library and Cultural Center, (AARLCC), Seminar Room 2  
2650 Sistrunk Boulevard, Fort Lauderdale, Florida

## **VII. ADJOURNMENT**

*MOTION: It was moved by Ms. Nunez and seconded by Mayor Moseley to adjourn the meeting at 11:10 a.m. The Motion was passed by a unanimous voice vote.*

**Disclosure: The above captioned Minutes are transcribed in a summary format. To hear the full meeting, a compact disk of the meeting (#DR-10-SC-213) can be provided after 24 hour notice to the Document Control and Minutes Section at 954-357-4900.**