



BROWARD HOUSING COUNCIL MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER: A regular meeting of the Broward Housing Council was held on Friday, October 23, 2015, commencing at 10:03 a.m. in the African American Research Library & Cultural Center (AARLCC), Seminar Room 2, located at 2650 Sistrunk Boulevard, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33311.

Council Members Present:

Chair, Randall Vitale
Vice Chair, Caryl Hattan
Robert Baldwin
Commissioner Dale V.C. Holness
Ann Deibert
Frances Esposito

Gino Moro
Mercedes Nunez
Commissioner Dave Rosenof
Frank Schnidman
Lisa Vecchi

Council Members Absent:

Richard Barkett
Lee Feldman
Monica Navarro
John Peters
Ralph Stone

Staff:

Angela Chin, Planning and Development
Management, (PDM)
Mark Journey, Office of the County Attorney
Vena Paylo, PDM
Henry Sniezek, Environmental Protection &
Growth Management Department

Guests:

Rosemarie Fallon, Housing Finance & Community
Redevelopment
Rick Ferrer, PDM

ROLL CALL: Roll Call was conducted by Albert Cummings with a quorum present.

I. APPROVAL OF THE AUGUST 28, 2015, MEETING MINUTES

MOTION: *It was moved by Frances Esposito and seconded by Ann Deibert to approve the Minutes of the Broward Housing Council Meeting of August 28, 2015. The motion was passed by a unanimous voice vote.*

II. CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Vitale introduced and welcomed new Council Member Commissioner Dave Rosenof with the City of Parkland appointed by the Broward League of Cities in the category of Officer of the Broward League of Cities. The Chair further stated that there are a couple of vacancies on the Council "owner of a business that employs fewer than fifty (50) employees" and "owner of a business that employs as least fifty (50) employees." Mercedes Nunez joined the meeting 10:05 a.m. He requested assistance from Council Members in reference to filling these two vacancies. He indicated that any referrals need to be forwarded to Angela Chin.

The Chair also spoke of a couple issues recognized in the media recently. First, the City of Miami is proposing an ordinance that would allow developers to permanently defer impact fees for workforce housing. He stated that the first reading got unanimous approval and the second reading will go before

the City Commission sometime this month. In addition, he stated that the Broward County Planning Council unanimously passed a recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) for an additional 5,000 dwelling units for the Downtown Fort Lauderdale area. The next step, he indicated, would be to present the item to the BOCC for final approval hopefully before their winter break. Mr. Henry Sniezek spoke briefly on this issue by stating that the application was submitted during the early part of the year and that there was collaboration between the County and the city. In addition, he stated that fifteen percent of the 5,000 dwelling units will be set aside for affordability. Mr. Sniezek stated that it passed by a unanimous vote.

Chair Vitale congratulated Gino Moro on his reappointment to the Council for another two year term.

III. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Sniezek gave an update on BrowardNext. He pointed out that the focus has been on preparing the overall strategies for four of the seven regional issues that have been identified by the county; redevelopment, multi-modal transportation, attainable housing and intergovernmental coordination. He mentioned the County is considering a linkage fee for non-residential development as well as considering strengthening the attainable housing bonus density. Mr. Sniezek also mentioned that staff will be working on other areas of interest, climate resiliency, environmental protection and pre-and- post disaster planning.

Chair Vitale asked if there is a timeline for final adoption. Mr. Sniezek responded by saying, staff would like to have something submitted to the Planning Council for final recommendation prior to their summer break then to the BOCC afterwards.

Mr. Sniezek recognized Ms. Vena Paylo, Web Site Specialist to discuss the hand-out she distributed. Ms. Paylo spoke briefly regarding the hand-out and requested Council Members to utilize the Housing Councils web site to share affordable housing information with their stakeholders. Mr. Sniezek also recognized the County's Historic Preservationist, Richard Ferrer with Planning and Development Management.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS: No comments.

V. HOMELESS INITIATIVE PARTNERSHIP (HIP) ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT CONTINUUM OF CARE (CoC) BOARD REPORT:

Vice Chair Hattan mentioned briefly about the upcoming Point-in-Time County that will be conducted in mid-January. She also spoke for a moment about the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) CoC Program Application Process and stated that the CoC Advisory Board is working on getting all of the projects rated and ranked for final submittal to HUD.

Chair Vitale inquired if anyone is working with or heard of Operation Lift Hope? Vice Chair Hattan, Council Members Francis Esposito and Lisa Vecchi responded that they are aware of Operation Lift Hope. Operation Lift Hope, as explained, is a team of communitywide leaders from Fort Lauderdale businesses, government, faith-based organizations, and social agencies collaborating to support a solution aimed at addressing homeless veterans and families in Broward County. Vice Chair expressed her concerns with Operation Lift Hope. She explained that they are only concerned about a defined geographic section in the City of Fort Lauderdale along the beach area that fronts their hotels. She stated

that the money received from the County will be squinted by the money Operation Lift Hope is raising thereby providing false hope that the county will not have to provide funding. These funds, she explained, that are being raised are only for the hotels and businesses along the Fort Lauderdale Beach area that have homeless veterans.

Council member Francis Esposito elaborated on the Vice Chair concerns. She stated that this was a community based initiative. A report came out and there has been so much discussion at the community and provider level all based on total confusion. She stated that she has been involved for approximately two years on this discussion but did not attend the event recently held; however, as the Vice Chair already stated these funds are for a specific geographical area and a defined population. Any dollars raised for the CoC is a plus; however, the parameters and defining terms have confused a number of people. My understanding is that there is a plan/report for execution but the priorities deal with the distribution of food at centers which has also confused the issue. The second point in the report has to deal with developing community resource centers focused on families.

Chair asked Council members, and all were in favor, of having a presentation to learn more about Operation Lift Hope at one of the upcoming Council meetings.

VI. OLD BUSINESS: No comments.

A. 2015 Work Program Completion Status Update

Chair Vitale mentioned that the February 26th Housing Council meeting will be to refine the 2016-2017 Work Program in a workshop setting. In addition, Mr. Sniezek requested from the Chair, a motion to direct staff to maintain the existing reporting of the Broward Housing Council's upcoming 2015 Annual Report as previously submitted in the past or direction for preparing another type of Annual Report. A consensus from the Council Members was to proceed with the existing reporting.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Presentation by Councilmember Frances Esposito

Councilmember Frances Esposito provided some insightful information regarding the Broward Partnership for the Homeless and the Taskforce For Ending Homelessness Outreach Team's 2015 August Report. She directed Council members to the two hand-outs that were distributed. She specified that the task force outreach team provides assistance to individuals while homeless families are directed to call the 2-1-1 helpline for assistance. Ms. Esposito then explained the difference between overnight beds and crisis shelter beds as labeled on the data and analysis sheet. She stated that overnight beds meant you are in a facility (the Homeless Assistance Centers (HAC) or Salvation Army) for the night and receive a meal, a shower and possibly a referral to services. She explained that overnight beds are not a crisis services program where you are placed for rehabilitative services, education, job training and counseling. She also explained that there are three HACs in Broward County; South HAC, Central HAC, and North HAC. Only the South and North HACs allow drop-offs and walk-ups. Because of the City of Fort Lauderdale Ordinance enacted in 1997, drop-offs and walk-ups are not allowed at the Central HAC.

She further stated that the aging population in Broward County is growing the fastest in the state of Florida. She said the shift in the homeless population used to be in the age bracket between 18 - 35 years

old now the age group is from 50 – 60+ years old at approximately 46 percent. Ms. Esposito proceeded by speaking about the Broward County Continuum of Care's (CoC) FY 2014 budget for homeless services. She explained that Broward County's budget is approximately \$20 million and comes from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the local General Revenue budget. She directed Council members to the pie chart graph which identified how \$10 million from HUD is allocated towards permanent housing, supportive services, and transitional housing and approximately \$10 million from the local general fund for Continuum of Care (CoC) Contracted Services at which 77% is allocated to crisis shelter interventions.

She mentioned that the Broward Partnership now has a fully staffed healthcare division comprised of urgent care, dental care and behavioural health care services. She stated that last May the Broward Partnership for the Homeless was deemed eligible to become a Medicaid provider; however, they must now show evidence to the state that they have the capacity and capability of an electronic medical records system before they can start billing for services. Ms. Esposito continued to explain each of the divisions and services listed on the organizational chart of the Broward Partnership for the Homeless.

She concluded her presentation by speaking briefly on their overall objectives, services, outcomes, and accomplishments referred to their 2014 Annual Report that was distributed earlier. She mentioned that on an annual basis they provide services to approximately 1,200 men, women and children, with a 52% success rate with individuals and 95% success rate with families. There was a brief discussion amongst Council members regarding homeless assistance and programs.

Ms. Lisa Vecchi mentioned that due to evaporated acquisition/rehab funds, Broward Housing Solutions' (BHS) ability to purchase and rehab new properties (expand) for affordable housing is not an option at this time; therefore, via the federal programs administered through Broward County (Rental Assistance program), BHS has successfully collaborated with landlords; this federal funding enables BHS to house a larger amount of low income and mentally ill residents. In short, this funding stream allows BHS to address the issue of housing Broward County's chronically homeless individuals in a scattered site housing program. The issue remains with insufficient funding for wrap-around services/case management as these clients are high risk and more challenging to house; more so, as billing for the chronically homeless and their inability to bill via Medicaid.

B. Proposed 2016 Work Program workshop at February meeting.

Mr. Sniezek spoke briefly regarding the proposed recommendations for the 2016 Work Program. He directed Council members to the handout in their meeting packet and indicated that the February meeting should be a workshop to further refine the work program.

The Chair inquired about the cost for the needs assessment study prepared by FIU/MC and indicated as a proposed action item on the work program. Ms. Angela Chin stated approximately \$48,000.00 was renegotiated with the Florida International University Metropolitan Center which included a housing demand and supply analysis for municipalities. The Chair and Council members agreed to have a workshop for the February meeting.

C. Proposed Housing Council meeting dates, time, and locations for 2016.

***MOTION:** It was moved by Mercedes Nunez and seconded by Ann Deibert to approve the 2016 Housing Council's meeting dates, time, and locations. The motion was passed by a unanimous voice vote.*

VIII. NEXT HOUSING COUNCIL MEETING

Friday, February 26, 2016

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Broward County Housing Finance and Community Redevelopment Division

Administration Office

110 Northeast 3rd Street, 2nd Floor Conference Room

Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301

IX. ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business to discuss before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 11:16 a.m.

Disclosure: The above captioned Minutes are transcribed in a summary format. To hear the full meeting, a compact disk of the meeting (#15-SC-110) can be provided after 24 hour notice to the Document Control and Minutes Section at 954-357-6634.