



BROWARD HOUSING COUNCIL MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER: A regular meeting of the Broward Housing Council was held on Friday, August 22, 2014, commencing at 10:05 a.m., located at the Housing Finance and Community Development Division, 110 Northeast 3rd Street, 2nd Floor Conference Room, Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33301.

ROLL CALL: Roll call was conducted by Mr. Albert Cummings.

Council Members Present:

Robert Baldwin
Richard Barkett
Frances Esposito
Vice Mayor Caryl Hattan
Richard Lemack
Gino Moro
Monica Navarro, Chair

Mercedes Nunez
Dr. Rosalind Osgood
John Peters
Frank Schnidman
Lisa Vecchi, Vice Chair
Randall Vitale
Commissioner Lois Wexler

Council Members Absent:

George Castrataro
Ann Deibert
Ralph Stone

Staff:

Angela Chin
Albert Cummings
Suzanne Fejes
Vena Paylo
Henry Snizek
Michael Wright

Guests:

Rosemarie Fallon, Housing Finance Community Development
Dr. Steven Bourassa, Florida Atlantic University
James Carras, Carras Community Investment, Inc.

I. APPROVAL OF THE JUNE 27, 2014 MEETING MINUTES

***MOTION:** It was moved by Councilwoman Caryl Hattan and seconded by Commissioner Lois Wexler to approve the Minutes of the Broward Housing Council Meeting of June 27, 2014. The motion was passed by a unanimous voice vote.*

II. CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Navarro introduced and welcomed two new Council members: Mr. Randall Vitale who represents the category of Banker, and Mr. John Peters representing the Builders Association of South Florida.

The Chair indicated that she has joined Sunshine Health, a subsidiary of Centene Corp as Director of Finance and mentioned that today will be her last day as Chief Operating Officer with Kids in Distress. She also stated that she is committed to the Council and will continue her term as Chair.

III. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A. Correspondence regarding the County Administrator's Designee and Board Liaison Assignments

Mr. Henry Sniezek stated that today is his first meeting as Board Liaison and he looks forward to working in this new capacity. He also thanked Ms. Angela Chin for handling a sudden change in venue when it was learned that the Housing Council's meeting had to be relocated elsewhere because the room at the African American Research Library & Cultural Center was being utilized for early voting.

Mr. Sniezek then announced that on Wednesday, August 27th, 2014 Broward County will initiate a kick-off to update the Broward County Land Use and Comprehensive Plans. He mentioned one of the focus areas is housing and stated that staff along with subject matter experts will revisit the existing policies, and identify solutions for improving the policies of the Land Use and Comprehensive Plans. Mr. Sniezek indicated that he would like the Council to have input into this initiative. *Mr. John Peters entered the meeting at 10:10 am and briefly introduced himself.*

IV. Homeless Initiative Partnership (HIP) Administrator's Report: Michael Wright Homeless Continuum of Care (HCoC) Board Report: Vice Mayor Caryl Hattan

Mr. Michael Wright provided an overview on the homeless demographics to date. He stated that the County funded approximately \$340,000 in the Rapid Re-housing (RRH) Program through The Salvation Army of Broward County for individual households. In addition, he mentioned that the Homeless CoC will now have three seats on the advisory board from the three largest entitlement communities (Hollywood, Fort Lauderdale & Pompano Beach). He spoke about the net reduction in the number of unsheltered homeless persons as indicated in the 2014 Homeless Point-In-Time (PIT) count. Mr. Wright continued by talking briefly about the application process for the Zero: 2016 Program which is a goal to help communities get all the way to zero for chronic and veteran homelessness. Council member Frank Schnidman requested from Mr. Wright a written summary of the data and analysis he presented to the Council. Mr. Wright continued by indicating that the Board of County Commissioners recently approved three new permanent housing projects through Homeless Continuum of Care and that this was their largest award to date with over \$2 million dollars. He stated that the County in collaboration with the Broward Behavioral Health Coalition approved \$300,000 dollars last December to target housing for chronic homeless persons. The funding has been extended beyond this point as they begin a 2016 project. The Broward Behavioral Health Coalition predicts that all homeless veterans should be permanently housed by December 2015.

Dr. Rosalind Osgood referred to housing for homeless persons who are transgender which she believes has become a problem and will continue to become a problem if planning for this special population is not done properly. She mentioned that some of the traditional housing now in place puts transgender people in harm's way and there has been hate crimes where victims were killed. Dr. Osgood said at some point we have to identify some kind of housing units that are allocated for that population so they are able to have safe affordable housing also. There was a lengthy discussion amongst Council members regarding housing for the transgender population.

Commissioner Wexler mentioned that she and Commissioner Dale Holness sponsored an ordinance last year that would require all Broward County condominium, cooperative and homeowners' associations to provide written notice regarding the status of an application to rent or purchase a dwelling unit, and if the application is denied, to state in writing the reason(s) for denying someone the opportunity to rent or purchase residential property.

The Chair stated that they shall remain vigilant to insure that housing they advocate for are being created not just by policy alone but by implementation and enforcement, accessible and sustainable to all populations including the transgender population.

V. Old Business

A. Prioritize the recommendations from the report “Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) Activities of Banks in Broward County” by actin items for inclusion in the 2015 Work Program

Chair Navarro recognized Mr. James Carras and indicated that his purpose for attending today’s meeting will be to assist with the proposed recommendations staff were asked to prioritize at the last Housing Council meeting using a time-frame ranking of short-term, mid-term, and long-term action steps. In Mr. Stone’s absence, Ms. Sue Fejes reiterated that the Housing Council contracted with Jim Carras of Carras Investment Inc. to, Evaluate Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) Activities by Banks in Broward County which he presented the report to the Council at their June meeting. She further stated that one of the recommendations was the creation of a Banking and Community Council. In addition, Mr. Carras spoke about the benefits of creating a Banking and Community Council which he believes could lead to a better climate for collaboration between the banks of Broward County, Governmental agencies and non-profit organizations by bringing these entities together to discuss issues, problems, challenges and opportunities and identify solutions. Mr. Carras continued speaking of the expected results of conducting a joint workshop and urged the Council to forward the CRA report to the banks as well as upload it to the Housing Council’s website.

Chair Navarro asked Council members if they had any questions, comments, or concerns regarding the proposed recommendations. Mr. Schnidman pointed out that the report that was presented and submitted to the Housing Council in June was in draft form and requested that the final report come before the Council for adoption.

Mr. Sniezek stated that staff will report back at the next meeting regarding the following: 1) investigating the sustainability of creating a searchable and interactive database on the Council’s website for each bank and CRA contact person to facilitate bank communication between the bank and government and non-profit agencies and community residents concerning CRA issues, needs and opportunities; and, 2) conducting a joint workshop between the Housing Council and the largest banks to define strategies for linking CRA activities with countywide affordable housing needs, and explore the creation of a permanent Community and Banking Council to continue to monitor and evaluate bank CRA performance, discuss issues, problems, challenges and opportunities and identify solutions.

After the lengthy discussion, the Chair requested that staff make the proposed changes from the recommendations for inclusion into the work program and bring back the final report at the next Housing Council meeting to be approved by the Council. In addition, the Chair requested that staff review items A and B under Foreclosure Counseling and Education, and if approved, would not be added to the Council’s work program since Continuing and Encouraged Foreclosure Counseling Workshop already exist on the current work program. She stated that the other recommendations, if approved, would be included.

B. 2014 Work Program

There was no discussion amongst Council members on the work program.

VI. New Business

There was no business before the Council for discussion. However, Chair Navarro allowed Mr. Schnidman the opportunity to introduce his guest, Professor Steven Bourassa from Florida Atlantic University. Dr. Bourassa provided a brief background of himself and stated he looks forward to working with the Housing Council in the future on various issues and/or topics.

VII. Next Housing Council Meeting

Friday, October 24, 2014, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

AARLCC – Seminar Room 2

VIII. Adjournment

MOTION: It was moved by Councilwoman Caryl Hattan and seconded by Ms. Mercedes Nunez to adjourn the meeting. The motion was passed by a unanimous voice vote and the meeting was adjourned at 11:52 a.m.

Disclosure: The above captioned Minutes are transcribed in a summary format. To hear the full meeting, a compact disk of the meeting (#DR 14-SC-28) can be provided after 24 hour notice to the Document Control and Minutes Section at 954-357-6634.