

Affordable Housing Advisory Board

Minutes of August 9, 2011

Members Present: Alex Babbitt, Patsy Barbee, Diane Beecham, Anna MacDonald Dobbs, Martha Hoylman, Mark Johnson, Rashii Purefoy, Nannie Richmond, and James Stroud

Members Absent: Lynda Baker and Jonzella Bailey-Pridham

Staff Present: Tara L. Fikes, Roxanne W. Reynolds

Welcome/Introduction

Patsy Barbee welcomed everyone to the meeting. She asked for brief introductions for the benefit of new member Alex Babbitt.

Public Comments

Nannie Richmond stated that the Joint Orange Chatham Community Action, Inc., (JOCCA) repaired her mother's home and she is very pleased with the work. It was noted that funds are still available for residents to apply for assistance. Diane Beecham asked if the application could be a link to Orange County website. Fikes stated that she would check into this matter. Fikes also stated that she would send JOCCA's Weatherization Application to AHAB members electronically and copies would be mailed to the members to circulate to residents in Orange County.

Minutes

James Stroud made a motion to approve the minutes of June 14, 2011 meeting with the correction that Diane Beecham was not present at the meeting. Mark Johnson seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Housing Bond Program Recommendation

Fikes reported that there is approximately \$143,304 remaining housing bond funds and provided a status report of bond fund expenditures. This information is incorporated as an attachment to the minutes. Fikes stated that the Advisory Board should submit a recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) regarding the remaining bond funds in the next few months. After some conversation about potential uses of the funds, Fikes stated that she would provide information regarding the Orange County Mobile Home Parks survey and a copy of the Housing Bond Policy at the next meeting.

Board Work Plan

Board members reviewed the group's previous workplan items. They included the following.

1. Mobile Home Park Revitalization;
2. The Abandoned Mobile Home Program;
3. Pursuing connections with the towns to insure inclusion in discussions regarding affordable housing;
4. Building momentum for affordable housing in Northern Orange County particularly for areas near transportation;
5. Advocating for another Housing Bond Program, local funding resources, and other funding resources; and
6. Developing a communication campaign to inform citizens regarding affordable housing needs utilizing personal stories such as those regarding the search for affordable housing in the community.

After some discussion, the Board identified the following possible future work items:

1. Unallocated Affordable Housing Bond Funds;
 - Disaster relief (perhaps for mobile homes)
 - Permanent housing for the homeless
 - Repairs for Club Nova Apartments in Chapel Hill
2. Develop a communication plan to keep affordable housing before the county.
3. Seek assistance from UNC-Chapel Hill School of Journalism regarding community wide media campaign for the County and Chapel Hill, Hillsborough and Carrboro. (Anna MacDonald Dobbs agreed to investigate.)

Additionally, after much conversation regarding mobile homes and mobile home park standards, Alex Babbitt agreed to provide information at the next meeting regarding park standards and moving costs.

Report of the Chair

Patsy Barbee mentioned the benefit of the June bus tour and recommended that the Board schedule an affordable housing bus tour each year. The members present agreed as well.

Department Report

Tara Fikes reported the following.

- Thanks were extended to board members for the change of meeting location due to her meeting schedule.
- The County Clerk has received applications from new board members and she asked for a volunteer to contact the applicants and Diane Beecham volunteered to contact them.
- The auction for Whitted Forest Apartments is now scheduled for September 6, 2011.
- The Town of Chapel Hill will schedule a meeting in the fall to start implementation of their recently adopted Affordable Housing Strategy.

Other Business

The next meeting will be held on September 13, 2011 in Hillsborough.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted:
Roxanne W. Reynolds