

## MINUTES OF HOUSING COMMISSION MEETING

DATE: 23 July 2013  
TIME: 4:00 PM  
PLACE: Housing and Community Development Department  
350 West 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 312, Dubuque, IA 52001

Chairperson Holz, following staff assurance of compliance with Iowa Open Meeting Law, called the meeting to order at 4:02 pm.

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|------------------------|--|---|--|
| Commissioners Present: | Jim Holz<br>Amy Eudaley<br>Sister Dorothy Schwendinger | Judie Root<br>Anna Fernandes                    | Patricia Foster<br>Robert McDonell               |
| Commissioners Excused: | Ricardo Woods  | Rick Baumhover                                  |  |
| Staff Present:         | Alvin Nash<br>Janet Walker<br>Randy Gehl               | Teresa Drury<br>Cpl. Scott Koch<br>Kelly Larson | Michael Van Milligan<br>(By phone)<br>Kris Neyen |
| Public Present:        | Pauline Chilton<br>Joyce Russell                       | Lynn Sutton<br>Trisha Federspiel                | David Wall<br>Tim & Willetta Trenkle             |

### Review and Certification of Unofficial Minutes of 25 June 2013 Commission Meeting

Vice Chairperson Schwendinger motioned to approve the minutes. Commissioner McDonell seconded. Commissioner Root abstained. All others present in favor. Motion passed.

### Correspondence/Public Input

None

### Old Business

None

### New Business

#### **Appoint Liaison to Community Development Commission**

Chairperson Holz entertained a motion to reappoint Commissioner Woods to the Community Development Commission pending City Council approval. Commissioner Root motioned to approve the reappointment. Vice Chairperson Schwendinger seconded. All others present in favor. Motion passed.

#### **Discussion of HUD Civil Rights Review**

Alvin Nash (Director) recapped last month's discussion of the HUD Civil Rights Review and then asked Michael Van Milligan (City Manager) to speak on the matter. The City Manager spoke about the report and the results from HUD that implied the city was intentionally discriminating against African Americans and he disagreed with this statement. The goal has always been to create a model housing assistance program. The City Manager indicated that he made the original recommendations to the Housing Commission regarding "local" preference

points and to reduce the number of vouchers in 2010. Staff notified HUD by mail of the proposed program changes and received letters back confirming HUD received the reports but, by HUD acknowledging the reports were received did not mean they were approved. The City Manager spoke about statistics regarding the Housing department. He also spoke about participants of several of the programs the department and the city has offered since 2009. The City Manager apologized for the recommendations he made that resulted in the unintended consequences that have arisen. Vice Chairperson Schwendinger expressed her concerns with the deficit. The City Manager talked about the City Council and their support of the program. A member of the public (Tim Trenkle) asked the City Manager about the statistics, the correlation between the numbers and African Americans, and the results from HUD. The City Manager spoke on the matter and gave his point of view regarding the statistics and the report from HUD. Commissioner Root commented on the situation and shared her original intention when voting on the "local" preference points. A member of the City Council (Lynn Sutton) shared her opinion on the negative impact put on the term "Section 8". Alvin Nash expressed his intent to move forward with the model program and work towards making the program better for everyone. Chairperson Holz inquired about the Administrative Plan. Staff explained the plan is currently being reviewed by HUD and we are waiting on those results.

### **Information Sharing**

#### **Complaints Received**

Commissioners received a summary of the complaints the Housing Department has received since the last meeting along with a copy of Cpl. Koch's crime reports. Cpl. Koch explained what the crime reports consist of and informed everyone that the report is always 4 weeks behind. Chairperson Holz entertained a motion to eliminate the complaints received portion and continue with the crime reports. Chairperson Root motioned to approve the change. Commissioner McDonell seconded. Motion carried 6-1 with Vice chairperson Schwendinger voting nay.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 4:57 pm.

Minutes taken by:



Teresa Drury  
Recording Secretary

Respectfully submitted by:



Alvin Nash  
Department Director