

MINUTES OF HOUSING COMMISSION MEETING

DATE: November 24, 2015
TIME: 4:00 p.m.
PLACE: Housing and Community Development Department
350 W. 6th Street, Suite 312, Dubuque, IA 52001

Chairperson Baumhover, following staff assurance of compliance with Iowa Open Meeting Law, called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m.

Commissioners Present: Bob McDonell Amy Eudaley
Rick Baumhover Coralita Schumaker
Sister Dorothy Schwendinger David Wall
Anna Fernandes (left at 5:05 pm)

Commissioners Absent: Jill Kedley

Staff Present: Kim Glaser Teresa Bassler
Alvin Nash Kris Neyen
Scott Koch Erica Haugen
Jerelyn O'Connor (arrived at 4:17 pm)

Public Present: None

Review and Certification of Minutes of October 27, 2015 Commission Meeting

Commissioner Wall motioned for the approval of the minutes from the October 27, 2015 meeting. Commissioner Eudaley seconded. All present were in favor. Motion as amended approved and passed.

Correspondence/Public Input

None

Old Business

None.

New Business

Continuum of Care Annual Performance Report

This report provides information regarding the homelessness in the community. This project is permanent, supportive housing. This program literally takes people off the streets and out of emergency shelters to provide a home for them. The amount of people with income increased significantly for various reasons, but primarily because they were able to provide a permanent address to begin receiving SS or SSI benefits. The City works with the School District to try to determine the amount of homeless children in the area. One requirement of this program is that you must be literally homeless, i.e. living in a shelter or on the street. Crescent Community Health Center, Hillcrest Mental Health, Hillcrest Family Services and Iowa Workforce Development are the biggest partners with this program.

Commissioner McDonnell motioned to receive and approve the report. Commissioner Wall seconded. All present were in favor. Motion passed. Report accepted as submitted.

Sister Dorothy Schwendinger asked to add to the Minutes a commendation to the staff for all the good work that has been done on this report throughout the year.

REAC (Real Estate Assessment Center) Financial Statements of Assisted Housing Programs

Janet Walker provided the information for this report. The report reflects the close out reports for the Voucher Program (including FSS program) and also the Mod Rehab program. These financial statements were prepared using Generally Accepted Accounting Principles. This report has been submitted and HUD has conditionally approved it at this time. It is remarkable, when you look at the amount of grants coming in for housing assistance alone, \$4.8 million has come through this office for Housing Assistance payments. Commissioner Eudaley motioned to approve this report. Commissioner Schwendinger seconded. All present were in favor. Motion passed. Report accepted as submitted.

Reports

Crime Reports

Corporal Koch explained to the commission that he has provided a narrative that the Commission has requested. For the month of October, the number of nuisance properties totaled 77. The number of background checks are 303 to date. Another 150 will be pulled before the end of the year. Serious, simple misdemeanors and felonies cannot be tracked by the current software program. Alvin Nash explained that it is explained to all Section 8 participants in the initial briefing that they are instructed that participants cannot have unauthorized users in their unit and they should not allow someone to just use their address as it could jeopardize their program assistance. He also explained that the Section 8 program has no more incidents of arrests than the general population. Corporal Koch shared that at each briefing it is shared with the new participants that rowdy friends or family members can cause a bad reputation of the program so it is advised to make sure that the "problem" friends or family could cause additional problems for participants. Alvin also talked about the steps being taken to rebrand the Housing program to try to change the perception of this program. He also shared that 74% of the Housing participants that are able to work, do work.

Nuisance Property Report – This information is included in the Crime Report.

CDBG Advisory Commission Report – Erica Haugen provided an update from the Community Development Advisory Commission. Erica shared that Rick Baumhover is now a member of that Commission also. A public hearing was held for Amendment 2 of the Annual Action Plan. That amendment allocated \$58,000 for the Salvia House elevator but did not approve the \$150,000 for the Micro-Enterprise Assistance because Maurice Jones was not able to attend the meeting to discuss the information that the Micro-Enterprise Assistance program. The Commission also set Public Hearings on January 20, 2016 for the Annual Action Plan Amendment 3 and for the FY2017 CDBG Annual Action Plan.

Rehab Reports – Kris Neyen explained to the Commission that she has a lot of changes made. 767 University has closed. Habitat of Humanity is proposing to build a house on a slab on that lot. The City is no longer the owner. 1501/1503 Bluff has sold. 2300 Jackson is progressing really well and is currently working on an after-rehab appraisal. There is a ribbon cutting scheduled for January 19, 2016. The ribbon-cutting is going to be held prior to the City Council meeting. 1849 Jackson is now CHI's property. We have received two more court-petitioned properties; located at 2008 Foye and 321 Valeria. These are properties we get with no ties attached, all liens forgiven and no debts attached to them. The property on Foye Street will be

a nice potential rehabilitation project. 1598 Washington closed. Officer Ramirez now lives in that property.

Neighborhood Services – Jerelyn O'Connor reported briefly about the Neighbor-to-Neighbor pilot program. The City is testing with 13 volunteers who have volunteered to participate. There are 5 block coordinators initially with 8 more coordinators just recently started. It is a resident-led program to provide opportunities for neighbors to connect and provide information on resources available. This program is not doing away with Neighborhood Associations, but it is to enhance those Associations.

Information Sharing

Amended City of Dubuque Code of Ordinances for Housing Commission

Teresa Bassler shared that there was an Amendment to the Code of Ordinances for the Housing Commission. It looks like it's just a formatting issue. There are still 10 members on the current Commission. There was some discussion on reducing the number of members for the Commission.

Rick Baumhover addressed having a December meeting. Alvin shared that there may only be one piece of information for a December meeting but that information to the Commission which could be delayed for a January meeting. There was a consensus to drop the December meeting.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Commissioner McDonnell motioned to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Eudaley seconded the motion. All were in favor and the meeting adjourned at 5:15 pm.

Minutes taken by:



Kim Glaser
Recording Secretary

Respectfully submitted:



Alvin Nash
Department Director

