

MINUTES FOR HOUSING COMMISSION MEETING

DATE: Tuesday, September 22, 2020
TIME: 4:00 p.m.
PLACE: Housing and Community Development Department
350 West 6th Street, Room 250; Dubuque, IA 52001

Chairperson Rick Baumhover called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m. following staff assurance of compliance with Iowa Open Meeting Law.

Commissioners Present: Rick Baumhover Hilary Dalton David Wall
Michelle Becwar Amy Eudaley Gail Weitz

Commissioners Absent: Janice Craddith
Suzanne Stroud Coralita Shumaker
Sam Wooden

Staff Present: Alexis Steger Tonya England Wally Wernimont
Gina Hodgson Cate Richter Jason Duba

Public Present: Linda Rhodes

Oath of Office - – Janice Craddieth

Janice Craddieth was not present.

Oath of Office - Amy Eudaley

Amy Eudaley read the Oath of Office.

Certification of Minutes – July 28, 2020 Housing Commission Meeting

Commissioner Amy Eudaley moved to approve the Minutes for the July 28, 2020 Housing Commission Meeting. Commissioner Michelle Becwar seconded. Roll call. Six (6) in favor. Motion passed.

Correspondence/Public Input

None

New Business

a) 2019 Proposed Fair Housing Plan: Review and Recommendations

Gina Hodgson, Assisted Housing Supervisor, stated that the committee needs to choose a total of 5 actions and prioritize them accordingly. The Commissioners discussed the following actions:

Goal One - Advance equity with fair housing advocacy, education and enforcement.

Action #1 Continue obtaining accurate Housing Choice Voucher data from landlords as to the number of units, location of units, vacancies, and denials of rental applications; identify landlords unwilling to accept HCVs and conduct targeted outreach and education.

Goal Two - Increase and promote safe, affordable housing.

Action #3 - City Council, as at least one member has publicly stated, should take any and all appropriate action to protect the residents in mobile home communities. This protection may come in the form of an ordinance or other action but promotes safe, affordable housing for the over 800 Dubuque residents who live in mobile homes.

Goal Three Implement local government policies that encourage equity and decrease disparate impacts.

Action #5 - Lack of access to child care is a barrier to opportunity such as employment.

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Goal Four: Increase access to opportunity and the building of social capital.

Action #2 – Increase community awareness about the impact of poverty and toxic stress on the brain; develop measurable equity and inclusion metrics

Action #3 - Evaluate disparities in arrest rates by race and detail metrics and actions to decrease racially disproportionate arrest rates.

Commissioner Gail Weitz moved to adopt the 5 actions from the 2019 Proposed Fair Housing Plan. Commissioner David Wall seconded. Roll call. Six (6) in favor. Motion passed.

- b) Appointment of Liaison to Community Development Advisory Commission

Commissioner Gail Weitz moved to appoint Hilary Dalton as the Liaison to Community Development Advisory Commission. Commissioner David Wall seconded. Roll call. Six (6) in favor. Motion passed.

- c) Appointment of Liaison to Housing Trust Fund Advisory Committee

Commissioner Gail Weitz moved to appoint Amy Eudaley as the Liaison to the Housing Trust Fund Advisory Committee. Commissioner David Wall seconded. Roll call. Six (6) in favor. Motion passed.

- d) Caucuses for Community – Review Best Management Practice for the Equitable Poverty Prevention

Wally Wernimont spoke briefly about the Equitable Poverty Prevention Plan. Dr. Linda Rhodes, Consultant with Public Works, stated she assisted with developing the Equitable Poverty Prevention Plan, during which they met with focus groups and identified 50 promising practices. Rhodes shared a presentation and video that discussed poverty in Dubuque and spoke with the Housing Commissioners about their reactions. During the presentation, Rhodes highlighted several areas: child care, Analysis of Impediments, source of income, an eviction study group, and a routine interior inspection program.

Reports

- a) Community Development Advisory Commission Report

No Report

- b) Rehab Report

No Report

- c) Neighborhood Services

Jerelyn O'Connor, Neighborhood Development Specialist, spoke briefly about the memorandum regarding the impacts of COVID-19 on the populations in Dubuque that are vulnerable.

- d) Assisted Housing Waiting List Statistical Summary

Cate Richter, Assisted Housing Coordinator, explained 25 of the 29 applicants on the Assisted Housing Waiting List Statistical Summary were for the Housing Choice Voucher. Four (4) of the applicants were for the Family Unification Program. (*There was a software glitch that kept the applicants from being pulled for August; all of the applicants have been pulled since the report was generated.*)

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The software glitch caused the report to show that the Mod Rehab and Project Based Voucher numbers are down. Next month, the report will show an increase in the number of applicants on the waiting list for each program.

e) Housing Choice Voucher Participant Statistical Summary

No additional information was reported.

f) Denial/Termination Meeting Results

Richter stated there were two (2) applicants reviewed in September for possible denials—one applicant was allowed on the program with stipulations; the other applicant was denied housing assistance.

g) Continuum of Care Special Needs Assistance Program

Amanda Hohmann-Dupont, Regional Homeless Coordinator with East Central Development Corporation, explained the Continuum of Care Special Needs Assistance Program is currently serving 13 households. They are hoping to be able to add another household once the budget is received.

Citizens may contact the homeless hotline at (833) 587-8322 for a food referral box and/or access to the homeless prevention services or Rapid Rehousing Services.

Information Sharing

a) Fair Housing Training

Hodgson asked for the Housing Commissioners to select a session for Fair Housing Training and submit information to Tonya England. The training sessions will be held virtually this year.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Commissioner Eudaley moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Becwar seconded. Motion passed by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 6:13 p.m.

Minutes taken by:



Tonya England
Recording Secretary

Respectfully Submitted:


Gina Hodgson
Assisted Housing Supervisor