

MINUTES FOR HOUSING COMMISSION MEETING

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

Vice Chairperson Gail Weitz called the meeting to order at 4:09 p.m. following staff assurance of compliance with Iowa Open Meeting Law.

Commissioners Present: Michelle Becwar Amy Eudaley
 Hilary Dalton Gail Weitz
 Janice Craddieth Sam Wooden

Commissioners Absent: Rick Baumhover Suzanne Stroud David Wall

Staff Present: Gina Hodgson Tonya England Cate Richter

Public Present: *None*

Correspondence/Public Input

None

New Business

- a. Review Analysis of Impediment Recommendations from other Commissions

Gina Hodgson, Assisted Housing Supervisor, discussed goals and barriers selected by the Housing Commission, Community Development Advisory Committee (CDAC) and the Human Rights Commissions during the review of the Analysis of Impediments and requested input from the Housing Commissioners.

Action: What are the plans for measuring the goals? (A copy of the 2019 Proposed Fair Housing Plan is attached.)

Reports

- a. Community Development Advisory Commission Report

Commissioner Hilary Dalton stated the Community Development Advisory Commission (CDAC) postponed the awarding of grants. They formed a subcommittee to review the grant applications that were submitted to CDAC.

- b. Assisted Housing Waiting List Statistical Summary

Cate Richter, Assisted Housing Coordinator, explained the Assisted Housing Waiting List Statistical Summary for November 2020 showed five (5) applicants for the Family Unification Program (FUP) on the Housing Choice Voucher Waiting List. The December 2020 Summary shows the applicants that were randomly selected and placed on the Housing Choice Voucher Waiting List in December 2020. All applicants have been pulled from the Housing Choice Voucher Waiting List and are in the process of being updated.

- c. Housing Choice Voucher Participant Statistical Summary

Richter explained the Housing Choice Voucher Participant Statistical Summary showed 774 participants in August 2020; in October 2020, there were 781 participants. The November 2020 summary shows the number of participants has increased to 797.

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d. Denial/Termination Meeting Results

Richter stated there was one proposed termination; it was decided that the participant would not be terminated. There were two (2) proposed denials for applicants—one (1) was denied assistance and one (1) was allowed to continue with the updating process.

Information Sharing

- a. Commissioner Sam Wooden stated there was a discussion of a landlord incentive program at the October Housing Commission Meeting. He was able to find information for Minneapolis; they have implemented a source of income ordinance that prevents landlords from turning away Housing Choice Voucher participants.
- b. Hodgson stated the Housing & Community Development Department has requested funding in the budget proposal for FY22 for a landlord incentive program that will deconcentrate areas for distribution of vouchers.
- c. Commissioner Weitz provided information for a JP Morgan Chase give-a-way for housing funding; information is available on the website for Axios.
- d. Commissioner Dalton spoke about the history of redlining in Iowa. Hodgson will email a link to the video that was watched at the Supervisor's Meeting for the City of Dubuque.


Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Commissioner Wooden moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Amy Eudaley seconded. Motion passed by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 4:37 p.m.

Minutes taken by:


Tonya England
Recording Secretary

Respectfully Submitted:


Gina Hodgson
Assisted Housing Supervisor

2019 Proposed Fair Housing Plan: Review & Recommendations

Housing Commission - September 2020 Meeting

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

- *Barrier: Housing Choice Vouchers are not accepted as source of income for rental units.*

Goal Two: Increase and promote safe, affordable housing

- *Barrier: Recent predatory pricing practices by Mobile Home community owners are pricing people out of their residencies*

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

- *Barrier: Lack of access to childcare is a barrier to opportunity such as employment.*

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

- *Barrier: Negative community perceptions about poverty impact fair housing and access to opportunity*
- *Barrier: Law enforcement actions disproportionately impact people of color*

Community Development Advisory Committee (CDAC)

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

- *Barrier: Housing Choice Vouchers are not accepted as source of income for rental units.*

Goal Two: Increase and promote safe, affordable housing

- *Barrier: Recent predatory pricing practices by Mobile Home community owners are pricing people out of their residencies*

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

- *Barrier: Arrest Records used as a barrier to landlord acceptance of HCVs and background check process is confusing to residents*
- *Barrier: Lack of eviction data and analysis to access discrimination and disparities and provide support to residents facing evictions.*

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

- *Barrier: The nonprofit service array is confusing to consumers.*

Human Rights Commission

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

- *Barrier: Human Rights Commission effectiveness*

Goal Two: Increase and promote safe, affordable housing

- *Barrier: Lack of affordable, safe housing*

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

- *Barrier: Arrest Records used as a barrier to landlord acceptance of HCVs and background check process is confusing to residents*

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

- *Barrier: Negative community perceptions about poverty impact fair housing and access to opportunity*
- *Barrier: Law enforcement actions disproportionately impact people of color*