

MINUTES OF HOUSING COMMISSION MEETING

DATE: 22 February 2011
TIME: 4:00 PM
PLACE: Housing and Community Development Department
350 West 6th Street, Suite 312, Dubuque, IA 52001

Vice Chairperson Schwendinger, following staff assurance of compliance with Iowa Open Meeting Law, called the meeting to order at 4:05 pm.

Commissioners Present: Lynn Sutton Sister Dorothy Schwendinger, OSF
Lisa McAllister Ricardo Woods (via telephone)
Judie Root

Commissioners Absent: Jim Holz David Kapler
Dorothy Culbertson

Staff Present: David Harris Cpl. Mike Kane
Jessica Kieffer Cpl. Scott Koch

Public Present: Jerry Maro

Review and Certification of Minutes of 25 January 2011 Commission Meeting

Commissioner McAllister moved to approve the minutes. Commissioner Woods seconded. Commissioner Root abstained. All others present in favor. Motion passed.

Correspondence/Public Input

Cpl. Kane announced that he has accepted a position as a Criminal Investigation Detective. He stated that he has appreciated all the Housing Commission has done to maintain the integrity of the Section 8 program and all they have done for the community. Cpl. Scott Koch has accepted the position as the investigator for the Housing Department and was introduced to the group.

Old Business

Review of NIU crime and poverty report and recommendations

The Commissioners received a summary prepared by Kelly Larson, Human Rights Dept Director and a summary of the Section 8 program findings prepared by David Harris.

Review of Safe Community Task Force report and recommendations

David explained the Safe Community Task Force has re-affirmed their prior recommendations that were forwarded to the City Council along with revisions and additions based on the NIU study. The Commissioners received a copy of the potential recommendations and the Housing Department response.

Jerry Maro commented that he has been hearing a lot of negative response from landlords about the new ordinances regarding mandated background checks. He stated that the crime study did not show a lot of issues with rental units so the landlords do not feel mandatory background checks are necessary. Why are landlords taking all of the blame? Jerry explained that landlords can set up their own criteria for accepting a tenant, if a landlord accepts criminals, then what good is a background check? Jerry shared that he has a meeting scheduled with the City Manager to discuss the landlords' concerns.

New Business

Request for proposals: project-based vouchers for assisted living facility

Letters of Commitment: Evergreen Development assisted living facility

David explained that as discussed at the previous meeting, Greg McClenahan, with Evergreen Development in Minneapolis is attempting to develop an 'affordable assisted living facility' in Dubuque. He is interested in the possibility of project-basing vouchers in connection with the facility. At the previous Housing Commission meeting, Commissioners voted in favor of proceeding with the steps to sponsor up to 25% of the units as project-based vouchers. An RFP has been established for interested developers and Commissioners were asked to review the RFP and Letter of Commitment and accept. Commissioner McAllister motioned to approve issuing the RFP and forwarding the preliminary Letter of Commitment. Commissioner Root seconded. All present in favor.

Information Sharing

Complaints Received

Commissioners received a summary of the complaints the Housing Department has received since the last meeting.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 4:59pm.

Minutes taken by:


Jessica Kieffer
Recording Secretary

Respectfully submitted by:


David Harris
Department Director