

MINUTES OF HOUSING COMMISSION MEETING

DATE: 3 December 2013
TIME: 4:00 PM
PLACE: Housing and Community Development Department
350 West 6th Street, Suite 312, Dubuque, IA 52001

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

Commissioners Present: Sister Dorothy Schwendinger Amy Eudaley
Anna Fernandes Robert McDonell Patricia Foster
Jim Holz(phone)

Commissioners Excused: Rick Baumhover Ricardo Woods

Staff Present: Teresa Bassler Janet Walker Alvin Nash
Erica Haugen Kris Neyen Teresa Drury
Maddy Cairney Hollie Ohnesorge

Public Present: Joe Ferrentino (Iowa Legal Aid)

Review and Certification of Minutes of 22 October 2013 Commission Meeting

Commissioner Eudaley inquired about a sentence under "Review and comment on the New Administrative Plan Draft" pertaining to doing away with local preference points. Janet Walker explained that this was a recommendation by staff. According to the regulations for having local preference points, they have to be based on the consolidated plan, what the need is, and it has to be supported. We do not have the supporting information right now and that is why we would remove the points but, we have not done so yet.

Commissioner Eudaley motioned to approve the minutes. Commissioner Schwendinger seconded. Commissioner Foster abstained. All others present in favor. Motion passed.

Correspondence/Public Input

Alvin Nash read aloud the resignation letter from Commissioner Judie Root. Commissioner Schwendinger motioned to approve and accept Commissioner Root's resignation and requested a thank you letter be sent from the Housing Commission. Commissioner McDonnell seconded. All others present in favor.

Alvin Nash reminded the Commission members and staff members that there are now two vacancies on the City of Dubuque Housing Commission.

Old Business

Comments on the new Affordable Housing Definition Draft

Commissioners received a copy of the New Affordable Housing Definition Draft and Alvin Nash explained he was looking for written and verbal comments on the draft. Alvin Nash indicated the goal is to redefine the definition of affordable housing. The definition needs to be broader and more inclusive of the population and the demographics in the community. Commissioners gave their suggestions for some changes in wording and Alvin Nash took them into consideration.

New Business

Family Self-Sufficiency Presentation

Hollie Ohnesorge and Maddy Cairney of Family Self-Sufficiency gave their presentation on the program. Through the program, the City of Dubuque and the head of each participating family enter into a five-year FSS contract of participation that specifies the rights and responsibilities of both parties, as well as goals and services for each family. HUD requires that two goals be met through FSS, the first of which is to seek and maintain suitable employment. The second is that all members of the household be free of cash welfare for 12 consecutive months prior to graduating from the program. Participants are able to set other goals according to their personal plans and ambitions. An interest-bearing FSS escrow account is established for each eligible participating family. Families earn escrow if their portion of the monthly rent is increased due to an increase in the households' earned income. The escrow is credited to this account monthly during the term of the contract. Once the family completes the contract, the balance of the escrow account is paid to the head of the family. Most participants complete their contracts within two and a half years.

Information Sharing

Crime Reports

Commissioners received a summary of Cpl. Koch's crime reports.

Letter to Participants

Commissioners received the letter previously sent out to the Housing Choice Voucher participants from the City Manager and the Housing and Community Development office. It consisted of the summary of changes from the Housing Commission meeting held on June 25, 2013.

Section 8 Management Assessment Program Certification (SEMAP)

Commissioners were provided a copy of the SEMAP report from HUD showing our total score of 104% and our overall performance rating is high.

Project Concern Pamphlet

Commissioners were provided a copy of Project Concern's pamphlet.

Adjournment

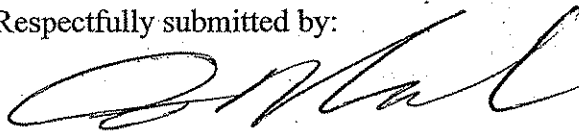
There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 4:45 pm.

Minutes taken by:



Teresa Drury
Recording Secretary

Respectfully submitted by:



Alvin Nash
Department Director