



APPROVED

MEETING MINUTES

HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS COMMISSION

Tuesday, June 19, 2018, 7:00 P.M.

Lorraine H. Morton Civic Center, Room 2402

Present: Chair Ellen Cushing, Vice-Chair Geri Palmer, Alderman Eleanor Revelle, Noelle Gilbreath, Moika Long, Mark Kruse, Larry Donoghue, Renee Phillips

Absent: Monika Bobo

Staff: Savannah Clement, Housing Policy and Planning Analyst; Audrey Thompson, Regional Ombudsman/Program Manager

Call to order

Chair Ellen Cushing called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM with a quorum present.

Approve minutes of May 3, 2018 meeting

Ald. Revelle moved for approval, and Sandra Hill seconded; Mark Kruse, Larry Donoghue and Renee Phillips abstained. The motion was approved 5-0.

Public comment

Tina Paden, Evanston landlord, provided public comment stating that she will not be taking tenants from the TBRA program anymore due to money owed to her by Connections for the Homeless.

Sarah Vanderwicken, provided public comment on the Commission in favor of developing an affordable housing plan. She mentioned the Metropolitan Planning Council Cost of Segregation follow up report which provides best practices and recommendations.

Intro. of new commissioners: Renee Phillips, Larry Donoghue and Mark Kruse

New commissioners introduced themselves and shared their backgrounds.

Connections for the Homeless application for renewal funding for the Tenant-Based Rental Assistance Program

Jen Feuer-Crystal, director of housing programs, from Connections provided an overview of the Tenant-Based Rental Assistance (TBRA) program. Connections leverages about \$100,000 of additional funding for case management for the program.

Renee Phillips asked about case management plan and when families go above income limit. Jen explained that case management meetings typically happen once a month, with a focus on education and employment. Every month Connections adjusts the rent payments based on income adjustments for each household.

Vice-Chair Geri Palmer asked about the money owed to Paden Properties by Connections. Jen stated that a few families owe back rent. Vice-Chair Palmer motioned to table the discussion on Connections TBRA renewal application until after the issue has been resolved between Connections and Paden Properties. Larry Donoghue recused himself from voting because he is on Connections' board. Ald. Revelle seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously.

Handyman Program Report

Audrey Thompson, regional ombudsman/program manager in the City's Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department, provided an overview of the Handyman Program. She said the City came up with the \$250 limit based on an assessment of average requests and repairs. She stated that for bigger repairs, applications are sent to Rebuilding Together. Audrey said that if anyone knows of any older adults with repair needs, please send them to her. She stated the City is also leveraging Northwestern resources for repairs, but it only does repair work on the outside of a home or building. However, Rebuilding Together does inside repair work. Residents have to be at or below 80% AMI, and age 62 or older to be eligible for the Handyman Program. Rebuilding Together has same income requirement, but no age requirement. Families are referred to the City's Housing Rehab Program if they need extensive rehab work beyond the scope of the Handyman Program.

Staff Reports

Staff provided updates on affordable housing work.

Chair's Report

Chair Ellen Cushing will send summaries of the Affordable Housing Plan and Heading Home reports out to the Commission. She asked everyone to review the white paper and needs assessment prior to next meeting.

New/Other Business

Staff will send an email to the commissioners about moving the July Commission meeting from the 5th to the 12th, per request from commissioners. There will be no August meeting.

Adjournment

Mark Kruse motioned to adjourn, Moika Long seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

The next scheduled meeting of the commission is Thursday, July 12, at 7:00 p.m. in room G300.

Respectfully submitted,
Savannah Clement, Housing Policy and Planning Analyst