



APPROVED

MEETING MINUTES

HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS COMMISSION

Thursday, May 3, 2018, 7:00 P.M.

Lorraine H. Morton Civic Center, Room 2402

Present: Chair Ellen Cushing, Vice-Chair Geri Palmer, Monika Bobo, Suzanne Calder, Alderman Eleanor Revelle

Absent: Sidney Caselberry, Sandra Hill, Noelle Gilbreath, Moika Long

Staff: Savannah Clement, Housing Policy and Planning Analyst

Call to order

Chair Ellen Cushing called the meeting to order at 7:07 PM with a quorum present.

Approve minutes of April 5, 2018 meeting

Ald. Revelle moved for approval, Vice-Chair Geri Palmer seconded, Monika Bobo abstained and the motion was approved unanimously.

Public comment

Sue Loellbach, Connections for the Homeless/Joining Forces for Affordable Housing, passed out a statement, asked that it be entered into the record. The statement is in favor an affordable housing plan. The statement is attached.

Doug Sharp, 9th Ward/Reclaim Evanston, spoke in favor of an affordable housing plan.

Jane Doe (name withheld), provided comment in support of making current residents, or residents that have had to leave, a priority in affordable housing access.

Introduction of new commissioner, Monika bobo

Staff introduced Monika Bobo, and provided a brief overview of her background.

Request for Applications for Landlord-Tenant Work

Commissioners made minor suggested edits and discussed the scope of work.

Commission Vacancies Updates

Chair Ellen Cushing put list together of potential new commissioners to fill the three June vacancies. Chair Cushing, Ald. Revelle, Sue Calder, and staff met with the Mayor to discuss the various candidates, and put together a list of top picks that will then be sent to City Council for approval.

Staff Reports

Staff provided updates on the City Council affordable housing activities from the April 30th quarterly update meeting. The housing finance workshop is scheduled for Wednesday, May 30th, at 6:30 p.m. in City Council Chambers. The event will be recorded and broadcasted on Channel 16 and the City's YouTube channel.

Chair's Report

Chair Ellen Cushing is evaluating former housing plans, and putting together an analysis of the need and current resources and units. She asked about having two monthly Commission meetings - second meeting, no actions - just analysis and discussion. Staff will look into the feasibility of this.

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

Sue Calder motioned to adjourn, Ald. Revelle seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

The next scheduled meeting of the commission is Thursday, June 7, at 7:00 p.m. in room 2402.

Respectfully submitted,
Savannah Clement, Housing Policy and Planning Analyst

Statement presented to the City of Evanston Housing & Homelessness Commission on May 3, 2018, by Sue Loellbach of Joining Forces for Affordable Housing:

At the City Council meeting on Monday, we at Joining Forces were very disappointed in two things in particular:

- One was the inability of some Council members to understand why an affordable housing plan is needed.
- The other was the apparent unwillingness of the Council to engage its Commissions to help it get the work of the City done.

We will be working hard over the next months to address both of these problems, because we feel that creation of an affordable housing plan is absolutely necessary if the City is going to effectively address the problem for the long-term.

We are not saying that the work the City has done so far and is currently working on is wrong or unnecessary. We are saying that it is not enough and that, without a more comprehensive approach with measurable goals, the current work will not yield the kinds of results the City needs. Therefore, we urge the members of the Housing & Homeless Commission to work with us to address the two issues.

First, to persuade aldermen of the need for an affordable housing plan, we suggest that the following benefits of such a plan be presented:

- **It will allow for integration of solutions:** We need multiple solutions to be implemented, and they must complement each other to address the range of needs in the community. Implementing one solution at a time in isolation of the others will not ensure a cohesive and effective approach to affordability.
- **It will make it easier to attract new resources:** Because we don't have enough resources, we need to find new ones. With a plan in place, we will be more likely to attract new partners (e.g., funders, developers) and to gain their confidence and support.
- **It will promote short-term & mid-term progress:** If drafted and implemented properly, a plan will include not only measurable goals, but a work plan that includes the steps, responsibilities, and timelines for achieving those goals. That gives City staff, elected officials, and advocates the tools they need to ensure progress.
- **It will pave the way for long-term progress:** An effective plan will integrate affordable housing into the day-to-day workings of the City. It will not be shelved but will continue to address housing needs long into the future as the economy and the community change.

Second, we respectfully propose that this Commission and City housing staff work together to move faster than requested by the Council on Monday night and collaborate to do the following:

- Provide the requested needs analysis by the end of May.

- With it, present the following:
 - An outline of what an Affordable Housing Plan should include
 - The steps required to complete such a plan
 - The resources needed to complete such a plan
 - A timeline and proposed responsibilities for completing such a plan, including a proposed active role for the Housing and Homelessness Commission

- With it, also present the argument that:
 - Council members already have extreme workloads
 - City staff already have extreme workloads
 - An affordable housing plan that is up to date is imperative, particularly now that the City is activated on this topic
 - The ONLY entity within the City that has the capacity to support staff in developing and then implementing such a plan is the HHC—if the Council is willing to work with them as a trusted and valuable advisory group.

If the Council rejects using the HHC on this project, then a discussion needs to be had as to what the purpose of the HHC is.