



APPROVED

MEETING MINUTES

HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS COMMISSION

Thursday, May 2, 2019, 7:00 P.M.

Lorraine H. Morton Civic Center, Room 2402

Present: Chair Larry Donoghue, Ellen Cushing, Alderman Eleanor Revelle, Monika Bobo, Noelle Gilbreath, Renee Phillips

Absent: Moika Long

Staff: Sarah Flax, Housing and Grants Manager

Call to order

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

Approve minutes for February 7, 2019 meeting

Ald. Revelle moved approval, Ellen Cushing seconded the motion; it was approved unanimously.

Public comment

Doug Sharp, Reclaim Evanston, explained the organization's advocacy focus and commended the Commission for its work.

Funding Application for HMIS by the Alliance to End Homelessness in Suburban Cook County

Staff provided a brief overview of the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) and introduced Jennifer Hill, Executive Director of the Alliance to End Homelessness in Suburban Cook County (the Alliance). Ms. Hill explained the multiple functions of HMIS, including Coordinated Entry that matches people seeking help with the most appropriate type and level of service throughout suburban Cook County, the "by name" list that prioritizes the most vulnerable for housing, and how information captured in HMIS informs strategic planning for the Suburban Cook County Continuum of Care (CoC). She also provided a summary of the report on Evanston residents served in the past year. Renee Phillips provided additional insight on the importance of HMIS to staff at member agencies of the CoC and the detailed reports produced by Catholic Charities, the agency that provides the CoC's Call Center. The Alliance will provide additional reports to staff for the Commission.

A discussion ensued about the different definitions of homeless used by HUD and the Department of Education for homeless families identified by School Districts 65 and 202, as well as why the City's General and Emergency Assistance clients and Domestic Violence agencies' clients are not entered in HMIS. The Alliance and City staff will discuss getting one or more HMIS licenses for City staff.

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There being no further discussion, Ellen Cushing moved approval of the Alliance's request for \$20,500 from the Affordable Housing Fund for HMIS support; Monika Bobo seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Staff noted that the Commission's recommendation would go to Planning and Development Committee at either its May 13 or May 28 meeting; Commissioners would be informed once the date was determined.

Demolition Tax Index Discussion

Staff reported that the Commission's recommendation to increase the Demolition Tax was approved unanimously for introduction at the April 29 City Council meeting. Ald. Wynne requested that a process to increase the amount of the demolition tax on a regular basis be added to the Ordinance 38-O-19 to avoid the need to evaluate whether to change the amount or having a long period of time elapse between adjustments. Using the Consumer Price Index (CPI) to determine an annual increase/change to the demolition tax, as with the fee-in-lieu of affordable onsite units in the Inclusionary Housing Ordinance was discussed. The CPI is the most commonly used index for contract escalation clauses because it is based on the change in cost of a wide range of goods and services. Adding language that requires the re-examination of the impact of using the CPI was also discussed; it was agreed that this was not necessary, as the amount of the demolition tax could be reconsidered at any time.

There being no further discussion, Ald. Revelle moved to include language indexing the Demolition Tax to the annual CPI in Ordinance 38-O-19 for the May 13 City Council meeting where the ordinance would be for action. Ellen Cushing seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Staff Reports

Staff provided updates on the activities of the Affordable Housing Steering Committee and on the City Council meeting on affordable housing on April 29. It was noted that the May meeting of the Affordable Housing Steering Committee had been rescheduled to May 15 from May 8. Staff is in communication with the Mayor's office regarding filling the two vacancies on the HHC, but has no additional information at this time.

Chair's Report

Chair Donoghue reported that he had met individually with each commissioner in his capacity as the new chairman. He noted that he planned to attend the May 15 meeting of the Affordable Housing Steering Committee and also Planning and Development Committee to speak in support of the Commission's recommendation to approve funding for HMIS for the Alliance.

New/Other Business

There was none.

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Adjournment

Ellen Cushing moved to adjourn at 8:48 PM, Ald. Revelle seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

The next scheduled meeting of the commission is Thursday, June 6, at 7:00 PM. in room 2402.

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah K. Flax, Housing and Grants Manager