



*APPROVED*

## MEETING MINUTES

### HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS COMMISSION

Thursday, June 6, 2019, 7:00 P.M.

Lorraine H. Morton Civic Center, Room 2402

**Present:** Chair Larry Donoghue, Ellen Cushing, Alderman Eleanor Revelle, Monika Bobo, Moika Long, Renee Phillips

**Absent:** Noelle Gilbreath

**Staff:** Sarah Flax, Housing and Grants Manager

---

#### **Call to order**

Chair Donoghue called the meeting to order at 7:27 PM with a quorum present.

#### **Approve minutes for May 2, 2019 meeting**

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

#### **Public comment**

- Tina Paden spoke against allocating ESG funding to Connections for the Homeless until after a meeting with Ald. Rainey, Braithwaite and staff about a disagreement over payments
- Ray Friedman spoke against the housing development at 1305 Pitner Ave
- Betty Ester spoke in favor of permanent supportive housing and taking residents from the RHI list
- Darlene Cannon spoke about the impact of 1305 Pitner on property values, about concerns with the tenant selection process, and location of affordable housing in minority neighborhoods

#### **Housing Opportunities for Women Services Overlay Funding Proposal for 1305 Pitner**

Commissioner Bobo explained that as an employee of the Illinois Housing Development Authority, a funder of the project, she is required to recuse herself from discussion and voting on this item and left the room.

Staff provided a brief overview of the request by Housing Opportunities for Women (HOW) for \$210,000 from the Affordable Housing Fund (AHF) for case management and other services that would establish a local preference for four units for 15 years in the 16-unit permanent supportive housing development being completed at 1305 Pitner Avenue. The units would be prioritized for households with children in Evanston School Districts 65 and 202 that are homeless under the McKinney-Vento Act. Britt Shawver, HOW Executive Director, explained that the services funding would be the first priority in the Tenant Selection Plan for those four units and provided additional information on the Regional Housing Initiative and State Referral Network waitlists. Discussion included

**APPROVED**

whether all units should be 2-bedrooms, whether units would be fixed or floating, whether a long-term plan to develop self-sufficiency would be provided, who would provide the services, and how tenants for the four units would be selected. The differences between how McKinney-Vento families are served through the Tenant-Based Rental Assistance program and these units were also discussed. Questions posed by members of the audience were also addressed.

There being no further discussion, Alderman Revelle moved that the Commission recommend approval of the request for \$210,000 from the AHF to establish a preference for residency by Evanston McKinney-Vento families for four housing units for 15 years in the new development at 1305 Pitner Avenue; Renee Phillips seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously. The Commission's recommendation will go to Planning and Development Committee at either its June 24 or July 8, 2019 meeting. Monika Bobo rejoined the meeting.

**Emergency Solutions Grant Funding Allocations**

Chair Donoghue summarized the staff recommendation to allocate 2019 Emergency Solutions Grant funds totaling \$151,738. The City would retain \$11,380 for grant administration; Connections for the Homeless would receive \$125,351 for street outreach, shelter, homeless prevention and rapid re-housing and the YWCA Evanston-North Shore would receive \$15,000 for its shelter. Funding for rapid-rehousing would be increased to 40% of grant total based on 2018 actual expenditures; prevention funding would be reduced accordingly; street outreach and emergency shelter would remain at 10% and 32.5% of total grant, respectively. Staff explained that the committee comprising staff from Connections, Family Promise, HOW and the City that reviews and approves households for prevention and re-housing funds facilitated provision of assistance to clients of those agencies that are not direct recipients of ESG funds.

Ellen Cushing moved approval of the ESG funding recommendation, Monika Bobo seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously. The Commission's recommendation will go to the Human Services Committee on July 1 and to City Council on July 22, 2019 for approval.

**Staff Reports**

Staff provided information about the summaries of the City's HOME and Affordable Housing Fund revenues and expenses for 2012 – 2018 and answered questions from the Commission. The report will be updated annually for the Commission. Renee Phillips provided some details about the additional reports from the Alliance to End Homelessness in Suburban Cook County that were included in the packet and reinforced the value of HMIS for tracking and evaluation of the homeless population and services to address their needs.

**Chair's Report**

Chair Donoghue outlined the priorities for the Housing and Homelessness Commission based on his discussions with individual members. He noted that he and Monika Bobo would be unavailable for the July 11 meeting. He will work with staff to either reschedule

***APPROVED***

the meeting to another date or cancel if there are no items requiring action by the Commission.

**New/Other Business**

Staff reported on work with the Mayor's office to finalize appointments to vacant HHC and Affordable Housing Plan Steering Committee vacancies.

**Adjournment**

Alderman Revelle moved to adjourn at 9 PM, Moika Long seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

The next scheduled meeting of the Commission is Thursday, July 11, at 7:00 PM. in room 2404.

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