



EVANSTON HOMELESS TASK FORCE MINUTES

Jan. 13, 2012

Present: Sue Calder, Co-Chair; Alderman Dolores Holmes, Sue Murphy, Janet Winslow, Dorothy Williams, Dan Lewis, Paul Selden, Kate Mahoney, Bill Kolen, Joyce Bartz, Kevin Mott, Debbie Bretag, Sue Murphy

Absent: Karen Singer, Co-Chair Alderman Ann Rainey, Paola Flores, Sidney Caselberry Kav Hagopian, Walter Cody, Paul Hamnn, Joe Liss, Karen Hunt, Oscar Hawthorne, Rev. Velda Love, Janice Lindquist,

Staff: Sarah Flax, Mary Ellen Poole, Ron Blumenburg,

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:37 am

II. Approve Minutes

A motion to approve the Nov. 4, 2011 minutes passed unanimously.

III. Public Comment

No Public Comment

IV. Welcome & Introductions

- a. Co-Chair Sue Calder welcomed the Task Force
- b. Sue gave the group an update on what is happening with the drafting of the plan and the meeting had with the Mayor regarding the new HHC. The mayor seemed receptive to the idea of merging the Commissions as long as all Housing Commissioners were allowed to participate on the new Commission if they wanted.

V. Unfinished Business

N/A

VI. New Business: Review of the Outline

Review of Proposed Housing and Homelessness Commission (HHC)

-Mary Ellen Poole reviewed the overall concept of the HHC and the need for a vehicle to implement the plan strategies. Mary Ellen asked the group to go through the proposal and give feedback. Feedback consisted of:

1. Combining the 4 working groups into 2 groups. The first group would be Prevention and Re-housing. Service Coordination would fall under that group. The other group would be Housing Production. Education and Outreach would fall under the Main HHC group.

HHC Outline:

Housing and Homelessness Commission:

working advisory group that reports to Planning and Development and/or Human Services Committee. The HHC is comprised of 9 total members. 1 Alderman and 8 representatives (4 from each working group). The HHC would be charged with directing the work plan for the Homeless Task Force as well as the Housing Commission. The HHC would monitor fund balances and conduct education and outreach activities to further the mission of the HHC. The HHC would also conduct research and analysis of regional initiatives around Housing and Homelessness. HHC would review all applications for funding from ESG, HOME, and the Affordable Housing Fund.

A. Prevention and Re-Housing Group Strategies/Goals:

- Service Coordination
- Discharge Planning
- Financial Stability and literacy
- Centralized Referral Process
- HMIS training

Representatives: Service providers, community volunteers, schools, hospitals, police, Evanston Alliance, Mental Health Board, Chamber, formerly/currently homeless

Funding Source: ESG, Affordable Housing Fund

Meeting Schedule: Determined by Group, but no less than every other month.

B. Housing Production and Placement Strategies/Goals: (Title may change, want to convey the sense that this group is for the creation and/or placement into actual units of affordable housing).

- Rental: New, rehab of existing and TBRA initiatives
- Homeownership: Down payment assistance, Employer assisted housing, new units
- Inclusionary Housing Ordinance and other zoning policies
- Public housing partnership/collaboration
- CHDO certifications

Representatives: Landlords, Tenants, Banks, Realtors, Business Community, Community volunteers, University rep, legal reps, foundations, housing counseling and advocacy groups

Funding Source: HOME, Affordable Housing Fund

Meeting Schedule: Determined by Group, but no less than every other month.

Overall themes that emerged included:

- The need for this group to be data driven and outcomes based.
- Setting achievable and realistic goals.
- Showing an organized group around housing issues may attract more interest from community and funders.
- This group can act as infrastructure in the City for policy and housing issues that will come up in the future, such as the Consent Decree and IMD's and the changing nature of

the HACC. Systems and groups will already be in place to respond quickly and appropriately to these types of concerns.

- Using a Primary, Secondary, and tertiary frame to identify specific populations/policy issues each group works on. For example: The prevention group would have the primary level that addresses the General population, the secondary level that deals with the High Risk population and the Tertiary level that deals with the currently homeless.

Alderman Holmes ended by commenting this is the perfect time to have a group like this because the city is focused on related polices such as the rental housing licensing issue.

VII. Communications

The next meeting will be Friday Feb. 3, 2012 at 7:30 am. Location: Parasol Room at the Civic Center.

VI. Adjournment-The Meeting adjourned at 8:48 am

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Ellen Poole, Housing Planner