



APPROVED

MEETING MINUTES

AFFORDABLE HOUSING PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE

Wednesday, February 13, 2019, 7:00 P.M.
Lorraine H. Morton Civic Center, Parasol Room 4900

Present: Chair Jennifer O'Neil, Alderman Eleanor Revelle, Ellen Cushing, Aum Harvey, Stephanie Murray, Rodney Orr, Uri Pachter, Michael Roane, Christopher Rothwell, Timothy Stroh

Absent: Sarah Delgado

Staff: Sarah Flax, Housing and Grants Manager; Savannah Clement, Housing Policy and Planning Analyst

Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 PM with a quorum present.

Public comment

- Doreen Price, Evanston resident and homeowner, provided comments on the United Nations' sustainability plan.
- Calvin Lynn, Evanston resident and property owner, provided comments in favor of homeownership and scattered site housing as opposed to more density.
- Sue Loellbach, Joining Forces for Affordable Housing, spoke about quantifying the need for affordable housing and goals. She offered Joining Forces' services to the Steering Committee, such as providing Affordable Housing 101 classes to residents.
- Bonnie Wilson, Age Friendly Evanston Task Force and Joining Forces for Affordable Housing, wanted the Steering Committee to be aware of the Age Friendly Evanston housing report and feasibility study.
- Sarah Vanderwicken, Evanston resident and affordable housing advocate, said it was difficult to hear in the Parasol Room, and asked the Steering Committee to make sure not to forget about the Affordable Housing Fund in its deliberations.
- Alvin Paden, Paden Properties, spoke in favor of the City not accepting fees in lieu for onsite affordable units in IHO-covered developments.
- Allie Harnid, D65 social worker, said she has noticed families leaving Evanston because they can't afford to stay, and then kids, especially those experiencing challenges, will have to start all over again elsewhere. Ms. Harnid suggested to the Steering Committee that the City should create universal Evanston credit check/rental application system, so that households aren't paying credit check/application fees multiple times when looking for housing.

Introductions

Steering Committee members introduced themselves and provided a brief explanation of their interest in affordable housing and the Committee.

Discuss Prior and Current Housing Work

Staff answered questions from the Steering Committee. Members asked staff to provide data from the Affordable Housing White Paper in a “more digestible format.”

Ellen Cushing suggested hiring a consultant to facilitate, lead and/or write the plan. Staff noted that Homes for a Changing Region had not finalized what municipalities it would be working with in 2019 or the scope of its technical assistance.

Discuss Working Groups

The Steering Committee discussed topics for work groups. Michael Roane suggested that everyone on the Steering Committee re-read the Affordable Housing White Paper, and send staff the following in advance of the next meeting:

- Identify the needs and potential goals
- List potential subject areas for work groups

Establish Meeting Schedule

The Steering Committee agreed to have its next meeting on Tuesday, March 19th, at 7:00 p.m. Going forward, the Steering Committee will meet on the second Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

New/Other Business

No new business.

Adjournment

Michael Roane motioned to adjourn, Ald. Revelle seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:29 p.m.

The next scheduled meeting of the Steering Committee is Tuesday, March 19, at 7:00 p.m. in the Parasol Room (4900).

Respectfully submitted,
Savannah Clement, Housing Policy and Planning Analyst