



APPROVED
MEETING MINUTES

AFFORDABLE HOUSING PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE

Wednesday, August 21, 2019, 7:00 P.M.
Lorraine H. Morton Civic Center, Room 2402

Present: Chair Michael Roane, Alderman Eleanor Revelle, Corina Boeckeler, Ellen Cushing, Sarah Delgado, Stephanie Murray, Rodney Orr, Uri Pachter, Christopher Rothwell, Timothy Stroh

Absent: Stephanie Gerberding

Staff: Sarah Flax, Housing and Grants Manager

Guest speaker: Tom Lenz and Wendy Siegel, Millennia Consulting

Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM with a quorum present. Chair Roane welcomed newly appointed member Corina Boeckeler to the committee; Ms. Boeckeler provided a brief background of her work and the need to include issues relating to design and sustainability of affordable housing in the plan.

Approval of Meeting Minutes: June 19, 2019

Following an explanation of some of the information reported in the minutes to clarify for members not present at that meeting, Alderman Revelle moved approval, Stephanie Murray seconded the motion; the minutes were approved 10-0 with one abstention.

Community Outreach & Engagement Plan – Millennia Consulting

Chair Roane introduce Tom Lenz and Wendy Siegel, Millennia Consulting, with whom the City has contracted to plan and implement community outreach and engagement for the Affordable Housing Plan. They provided information on Millennia and their individual backgrounds and asked each committee member to share their interest in affordable housing and their motivation for being on the Steering Committee. Mr. Lenz walked through the proposed timeline and the purpose of the outreach phase to provide broad and deep input from the community to inform that plan using a three step process of one-on-one interviews, small group discussions, and one or more community meetings. Committee members provided a range of suggestions and asked questions about the methodology and how committee members would be involved in the various activities. Suggestions were also provided by members of the audience.

The types of informational materials about housing needs and possible strategies to address them, and whether, and to what extent those strategies should be shared were discussed. There was general consensus that providing solutions to housing needs too early in the process would suppress input from stakeholders and residents and make them feel that both needs and strategies to address them had already been decided. Ms. Delgado talked about outreach being done for the Assessment of Fair Housing that

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should be used to inform the plan; the results of the needs assessment survey for the City's new Consolidated Plan would also be used for that purpose.

Discussion followed about stakeholders and targeted groups that needed to be reached; Millennia will review work to date on this. It was agreed that additional committee input would be gathered using a Google doc and be finalized at the next meeting. Millennia will draft discussion guides for the committee's review for one-on-one interviews and small group discussions. An electronic system such as Survey monkey will be used to compile input. It was agreed that staff would conduct a poll to determine the next meeting date, either September 18 or 25.

Public comment

Keith _____, Joining Forces, noted that workshops are an effective way to engage residents and recommended that they be used in the outreach.

Doug Sharp, Reclaim Evanston, talked about their work with Joining Forces to educate residents about housing needs and get their input, and their advocacy for additional funding sources such as a portion of the Real Estate Transfer Tax to address the needs.

Sue Loellbach, Joining Forces, voiced support for the outreach process and information about YWCA's work to gather stories about people who need affordable housing. She noted the strategies to address needs are in the White Paper, and that input on how to prioritize them was needed, as well as identifying the neighborhoods in which each strategy would be used.

Betty Ester noted that vacant land on which housing could be built is concentrated in the 5th Ward and there is a need for three bedroom units for larger families.

Doreen Price commented that agism was a problem and programs that would keep elderly homeowners in their homes should be a priority. .

New/Other Business

None

Adjournment

There being no further business before the committee, a motion to adjourn was made, seconded and approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

The next scheduled meeting of the Steering Committee will be scheduled for September 18 or 25 based on availability of committee members.

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