



Minutes City Council's Housing Committee July 28, 2009

Minutes of the meeting of the City Council's Housing Committee held on Tuesday, July 28, 2009, 2:00 p.m., in the 3rd Floor Conference Room, Tempe City Hall, 31 E. 5th Street, Tempe, Arizona.

Committee Members Present:

Councilmember Corey Woods, Chair
Vice Mayor Shana Ellis

City Staff Present:

Jan Hort, City Clerk
Matthew Hess, Community Development
Craig Hittie, Housing
Theresa James, Community Development
Shauna Warner, Neighborhood Services
Craig Hittie, Community Development

Guests Present:

Beth Fiorenza, Tempe Community Action Agency (TCAA)
Jason Matthews, Tempe Community Council (TCC)
Janet Garrier, United States United Way (USUW)

Councilmember Woods called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

Agenda Item 1 – Public Comment

None.

Agenda Item 2 – Housing Trust Fund Advisory Board Update

Councilmember Woods stated that the next meeting date for the Housing Trust Fund Advisory Board will be on Tuesday, July 30 at 7 am. Todd Marshall will be serving as the Chair and Stanley Nicpon will be serving as the Vice-Chair. The first meeting will consist of determining this board's mission and goals. Another item of focus for this board will be to discuss potential dedicated funding sources so that this body's mission and goals will remain self-sustaining in terms of funding.

Agenda Item 3 – Workshop – Affordable/Transitional Housing

This item was tabled.

Agenda Item 4 – American Recovery & Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Funding Update

Craig Hittie explained that a new interdepartmental partnership has been created between the Housing Division and the Public Works Department to coordinate Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding allocations for neighborhood lighting installation projects. The first phase of this partnership is to monitor the procurement process

for installation and lighting. Part of the (ARRA) funding may be used for staff salaries/program management. Public Works will be supplying the procurement staff with a list of vendors that provide lighting installation sales and support. Federal funding performance requirements mandate that these installations are targeted for neighborhoods with low to moderate income levels. CIP funding will also be added to the federal funds to accomplish this project. A lighting installation pilot project will be undertaken to get feedback from residents. Lighting will be designed to create safer neighborhood environments.

Agenda Item 5 – Permanent, supportive housing for the chronically homeless in Tempe Pilot Project Update

Theresa James stated that staff is in the process of interviewing various agencies to partner with to assist in homeless amenity/homeless prevention programs. The Department of Housing and Development funding guidelines require that Tempe select a subcontractor no later than September 30, 2009.

Ms. James stated that staff will be making an Issue Review presentation in September regarding a multi-jurisdictional effort to provide enhanced services and housing policies for the homeless population. The presentation will discuss various program funding aspects including operation funds and long term financing projections. Councilmember Woods and Vice-Mayor Ellis stressed the importance of community education and awareness of the needs of the homeless population, along with the purpose and intent of this type of program.

Agenda Item 6 – Rehabilitation Policy Revision

Craig Hittie stated that staff is proposing that the grant limit for applicants seeking funding from the Rehabilitation Policy Program be raised due to increased construction and transportation costs over the past several years. Staff is proposing that the amount allocated to rehabilitate housing units be increased from \$7,500/unit to \$10,000/unit. Not all local jurisdictions have emergency grant assistance programs of this nature. However, the proposed \$10,000/unit is considered in line with jurisdictions that are dedicated to meeting the needs of this residential population. There are existing CDBG funds available for this program. To avoid system abuses, program guidelines restrict applicants to no more than one funding request within a three year period. Staff utilizes the services of pre-approved contractors that have been reviewed by the Procurement Division. Mr. Hittie stated that staff will be adding the revised Policy Manual as a consent agenda item at the August 20th Formal Council meeting.

Agenda Item 7 – Announcement – Governor’s Housing Forum

Craig Hittie announced that the Governor’s Health Forum will be held September 14 – 16, 2009 at the Buttes Resort. Attendees can register on-line at housingaz.com.

Agenda Item – Future Agenda Items

Councilmember Woods requested that the Police Department give a presentation regarding their perspective on homeless issues, enforcement actions and the media coverage of Police Department activity.

Craig Hittie requested that agenda items 2, 3, 4 & 5 remain on future agendas for the purpose of staff updates and Committee feedback.

Meeting adjourned at 2:36 p.m.

Prepared by: Kay Savard
Reviewed by: Liz Chavez

Jan Hort
City Clerk