



Minutes City Council's Housing Committee September 22, 2009

Minutes of the meeting of the City Council's Housing Committee held on Tuesday, September 22, 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	Carlos de Leon, Transit
Craig Hittie, Comm Dev	Theresa James, Comm Dev
Shauna Warner, Neighborhood Svcs	Jyme Sue McLaren, Comm Dev
Chris Salomone, Comm Dev	Liz Chavez, Comm Dev

Guests Present:

Beth Fiorenza, Tempe Community Action Agency (TCAA)	Matt Krison, ASU
Jason Matthews, Tempe Community Council (TCC)	Christina O'Harer, ASU
Zita Johnson, TCAA	Brenda Meda, ASU
Jason Villano, ASU	Justin Stone, ASU
Alex Zerer, ASU	Annie Hale, ASU
Keith Nazario, ASU	Alfred Chang, ASU

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

Agenda Item 1 – Public Comment

None.

Agenda Item 2 – “Visitability” for Tempe Housing

Karl Stevens stated that the word visitability refers to how homes are adapted, or not, to accommodate disabled guests. Sometimes entry steps to a home are enough to hinder someone with disabilities from visiting their family and/or friends. Making homes accessible to disabled individuals is the concept behind “visitability”, including ADA (Adults with Disabilities) residential restroom compliance. Inclusion is the goal.

A potential source of opposition is the building industry, where costs may be an adverse factor. Should the Council determine that housing retrofits are a priority, then funding will be necessary to promote that value. Federal grant funds could be a source of funding supplements. Ordinance updates would also need to be considered. Tucson and Pima County have endorsed the “visitability” concepts by mandating accessibility standards for new housing.

Councilmember Woods asked Mr. Stephens if builders have avoided building in communities that have adopted these building standards. Mr. Stephens stated that builders have been surprisingly willing to conform to the new standards and the market acceptance and demand for homes with disability access/features is positive. Vice Mayor Ellis suggested that this be a topic of consideration at the upcoming Affordable/Transitional Housing Workshop. Councilmember Woods agreed that this would be appropriate and acknowledged the importance of community input and feedback on this issue.

Agenda Item 3 – Housing Trust Fund Advisory Board Update

Meetings have been scheduled at Hatton Hall for September 28, 6:00 pm and October 12, at 6:30 pm.

Agenda Item 4 – Workshop – Affordable /Transitional Housing

Councilmember Woods stated that the date for this workshop will be delayed. Councilmembers Woods and Ellis agreed that it would be best to delay this in order to get more information on supportive housing and the visitability to add to the workshop in view of the importance of these issues and the need for community input.

Agenda Item 5 – American Recovery & Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Funding Update

Craig Hittie stated he has met with Public Works staff to discuss stimulus street light funding ideas. The installation will be done by City staff. There will be some test lighting done to gauge energy efficiency and illumination as well as a cost evaluation analysis of these upgrades. A comparison will be done of inductive, LED, and current standard lighting. The goal is to take this program city-wide. It was agreed that this street lighting project go before the Council Sustainability Committee.

Agenda Item 6 – Permanent, supportive housing for the chronically homeless in Tempe Pilot Project Update

Theresa announced that the City Council awarded funding for the Tumbleweed Rapid Re-housing program. This program will serve homeless youth up to the age of 25.

Ms. James stated that staff is in the process of looking at housing solutions for homeless individuals in Tempe. Public feedback to the Mayor and City Council is being forwarded to staff to address. Staff will be convening an Implementation Team. The purpose of this committee is to determine housing eligibility criteria, program components, and to address other administrative concerns. Tempe-based homeless service providers and other interested stakeholders will be invited to participate on the Implementation Team. An e-vite will go out by the end of this week.

Vice Mayor Ellis asked Ms. James to describe the population to be served by this program. Ms. James replied that there will be a spectrum of homeless individuals that have been homeless over the past year in Tempe. The seriously mentally ill population may be included in this program. I-HELP participants will be eligible for this program. Vice Mayor Ellis clarified that existing staff resources will be utilized to administer this program and no additional personnel will be hired, so partnering with other communities/agencies to assist in program administration is a practical alternative. Ms. James agreed.

Vice Mayor Ellis clarified that the population to be served includes a spectrum of chronic homeless, people with disabilities as well as those that can be self-serving – not just the special chronic priority population. Recipients will be individuals who are known to be homeless in Tempe.

Zita Johnson asked if the Valley of the Sun United Way will be receiving any direct funding for this program. Ms. James stated that that information is a misconception. The United Way will be acting as a broker for this program and will not be receiving any funding from Tempe for their role in the development of this program. The United Way is working to help implement housing for the homeless throughout Maricopa County.

Ms. James added that the Tumbleweed Program was chosen as a funding recipient for \$200,000 of the funds as a result of a Request for Proposals (RFP) that was issued for youth housing. A selection committee determined that the Tumbleweed Project was the most effective use of this funding opportunity.

Ms. James was asked to provide a memo clarifying the program funding and the misinformation given at the September 17, Issue Review Session by representatives from the Arizona Department of Health Services.

Agenda Item 7 – FYI 2008/2009 Housing Accomplishments

Craig Hittie stated that staff has recently completed their annual report for the Housing and Urban Development Department (HUD). Mr. Hittie outlined program accomplishments for fiscal year 2008/2009. 2,912 families were assisted with housing and basic need items during this timeframe. This includes CDGB dollars only. The Tempe Community Council will be presenting their update to the City Council in November. The Section 8 Housing serves approximately 1,050 families per month.

Agenda Item 8 – Future Agenda Items

Place the following items on the October 20, 2009 meeting agenda:

- Housing Trust Fund Advisory Board Update
- Workshop-Affordable/Transitional Housing Update
- American Recovery & Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Funding Update
- Permanent, Supportive Housing Implementation Committee Update

Meeting adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

Prepared by: Kay Savard

Reviewed by: Liz Chavez

Jan Hort
City Clerk