

Minutes City Council's Housing Committee October 20, 2009

Tuesday, October 20, 2009, 3:00 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
Craig Hittie, Housing
Shauna Warner, Neighborhood Admin
Tom Ryff, PD
Jyme Sue McLaren, Comm Dev

Carlos de Leon, Public Wrks
Karen Pierce, Housing
Brenda Buren, PD
Chris Salomone, Comm Dev
Terry Haley-Kolesar, Housing

Guests Present:

Zita Johnson, TCAA
Stephen Sparks, TCAA

Councilmember Woods called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m.

Agenda Item 1 – Public Comment

None.

Agenda Item 2 – Foreclosures and Calls for Service

Tom Ryff reported that an interdepartmental task force has been created to coordinate city resources in identifying and assisting in resolving problems within Tempe neighborhoods. This collaboration reduces a duplication of efforts among departments and serves as a valuable information sharing opportunity.

Technology is pivotal to the success of this process. Brenda Buren added that this proactive approach has helped staff to compile data regarding nuisance issues, calls for service, foreclosure data, etc. Data is updated monthly and is used to identify problem areas. Surveys of Tempe residents are conducted to determine what their concerns are and how effective this collaboration among staff has been perceived by the community.

Chief Ryff asked that the Committee help with suggestions that encourage interaction. This is a new project and all ideas are being solicited to better serve the Tempe residents.

Agenda Item 3 – Housing Trust Fund Advisory Board Update

Todd Marshall stated that meetings to date have consisted of the board being updated as to what is currently being done in terms of affordable housing and services. The next few meetings the board will be developing mission and purpose statements.

Councilmember Woods asked about the population this board will be serving. Mr. Marshall stated that the population to be served is yet to be determined.

A question was asked regarding the requirements of the board members to be Tempe residents. It was explained that a code amendment was approved requiring board members to be Tempe residents. This would affect future member appointments. The Attorney's office has indicated that should a current board member move out of Tempe during their tenure on this board, they would not be removed from the board. However, they would automatically become ineligible for reappointment.

Agenda Item 4 – Housing Educational Workshop

This workshop was scheduled for Saturday, February 6, 2010, from 9 am – noon. The location is yet to be determined.

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

Craig Hittie stated that Theresa James issued an e-mail on September 24, to current City of Tempe homeless providers and partners asking for their participation in the pilot project implementation strategy. A meeting was held on October 6 with organizational representatives. An implementation team was formed to assist with on-going development of the pilot housing project. A list of potential housing candidates was requested from Tempe Community Action Agency and Urban Outreach. A project evaluation tool is being created with the assistance of the Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust. Data collection is an important component of measuring the success of this project.

Staff is in the process of drafting a memorandum of understanding that will articulate the responsibilities among the various program partnerships. Participating organizations for this endeavor are Tempe, Valley of the Sun United Way and the Department of Health Services.

Agenda Item 6 – Family Self Sufficiency Program Participant Graduation

Karen Pierce updated the Committee on the Family Self Sufficiency Program Graduation event. The Cities of Chandler, Mesa, Scottsdale and Tempe participate in this program which is designed to transition folks from being dependent on social services to becoming financially independent. Currently, 58 Tempe families are being served through the FSS program. This number will increase to 78 in January. Recipients receive assistance for 5 years. This program also offers educational opportunities to participants that have health and financial challenges. Two Tempe participants graduated this year.

Agenda Item 7 – Future Agenda Items

- Housing Trust Fund Advisory Board Update
- Housing Educational Workshop
- Stimulus funding program activity
- Public Hearing CDBG 5 year Consolidated Plan
- Second Unit Code – Development Services

Tuesday, November 17, 3:00 p.m. will be the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 3:37 p.m.

Prepared by: Kay Savard

Reviewed by: Craig Hittie