



## **Minutes City Council's Housing Committee December 16, 2008**

Minutes of the meeting of the City Council's Housing Committee held on Tuesday, December 16, 2008, 3:00 p.m., in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Conference Room, Tempe City Hall, 31 E. 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Tempe, Arizona.

### **Committee Members Present:**

Councilmember Corey Woods, Chair  
Vice Mayor Shana Ellis

### **City Staff Present:**

Carlos de Leon, Dep Public Wrks Mgr  
Craig Hittie, Affordalbe Hsg Supvr  
Jan Hort, City Clerk  
Theresa James, Homeless Coordinator  
Jayson Matthews, TCC

### **Guests Present:**

Allen Carlson, NewTown  
Lisa Roach, NAC/Housing Subcommittee  
Emily Ryan, AZ MultiHousing Assn.  
Stephen Sparks, TCAA

Councilmember Woods called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.

### **Agenda Item 1 – Public Comment**

None.

### **Agenda Item 2 – Finalize Committee Scope and Work Plan**

Councilmember Woods summarized that the red, underlined items were added since the last meeting, based on suggestions made.

- Addition under Item b., bullet #4 – “Seek availability to incremental Section 8 Voucher assistance to provide adequate housing as a means to promote affordable housing.”
- Addition under Item c, bullet #1 – “Adopt an Affordable Housing Trust Fund (HTF) ordinance.”
- Addition under Item c, bullet #2 – “Upon adoption of the ordinance, research possible alternatives for a dedicated funding source for the HTF.”
- Addition under Item c, bullet #6 – “Create partnership, or build on existing partnerships, to expand affordable housing for seniors.”
- Addition under Item e, bullet #4 – “Continue to facilitate Tempe Project Homeless Connect events. Work with other East Valley cities to assist them with facilitating Project Homeless Connect in their communities.”

- Addition under Item e, bullet #5 – “Increase awareness of the Housing First model and work with Tempe-based homeless service providers to examine the feasibility of a partnership that could lead to implementation of the Housing First model in Tempe.”
- Addition under Item e, bullet #6 – “Partner with Tempe-based homeless service providers to develop and implement an employment training program for chronically homeless individuals.”

The work plan will be presented to Council at the Issue Review Session on January 8, 2009.

### **Agenda Item 3 – Housing Trust Fund Update**

Craig Hittie summarized that the City Attorney's Office has suggested to bifurcate the document and extract the part with the actual housing trust fund committee and put it into Chapter 2 where all the boards and commissions are laid out. The suggestion would be put the rest of the document into a new chapter. The City Attorney will review this document on Monday and will go to Formal Council meeting on January 8<sup>th</sup>.

### **Agenda Item 4 – Mobile Home Relocation/Zoning Policy Ordinance Update**

Jayson Matthews summarized that there has been some movement on this policy. Staff has been working with Craig Hittie and Neil Calfee and members of other non-profits on this process and with the great help of David Park and Liz Welch in the City Attorney's Office, options have been presented. Before the next meeting, he will begin the process the first week of January to present some of the key concepts to TCAA, Chicanos Por La Causa, and other City departments to gain feedback. He will present the key concepts at the next committee meeting.

Craig Hittie added that proper notice of the change of land use is important. The City Attorney's Office verified that current leases or contracts cannot be superseded. There may be other things that can be offered through revisions, changes of definitions, or relocation fees, etc. Notice has to be spelled out.

Vice Mayor Ellis added that there were many problems with the notice.

Mr. Matthews added that they are working with their non-profit partners to get some realistic criticism of these points.

Vice Mayor Ellis added that when this was originally discussed, a map of the existing mobile home parks was developed. It showed the underlying zoning. Some of the zoning has already changed and they are still operating as mobile home parks even though their zoning has changed.

Mr. Mathews stated that he would have that map for the next meeting.

Councilmember Woods spoke at the University Presbyterian Church over the weekend and this was one thing they asked about. They recognized that the Apache Boulevard area needs to be redeveloped, but at the same time, they are not interested in lowering the statistics on homeless population unless they actually know they are being taken care of. This policy will go a long way.

Mr. Mathews added that Lisa Roach will provide feedback from the Neighborhood Advisory Commission's Housing subcommittee and suggested that Councilmember Woods attend. The meeting is on January 15<sup>th</sup>.

### **Agenda Item 5 – HOPE Program Update**

Theresa James summarized that the HOPE program has been operational since October, 2006.

- HOPE is currently staffed by two part-time outreach caseworkers and one student intern.
- 32 hours per week, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday

- The goal is to travel throughout Tempe to the places where homeless congregate, and work to develop relationships to get them hooked into the services they need to alleviate their homelessness.
- Staff takes the people they serve to the services they need and stays with them through the process of assistance.
- Many of those served are chronically homeless and have been living on the streets for an average of 40 months. By the time staff develops a relationship with them, they have acclimated to being homeless and are difficult to serve.
- Most also live with mental illness or drug and alcohol use.
- Shelters are funded through their general fund.
- Start with basic needs such as valid form of identification, medication, or treatment. HOPE works with Community Bridges, one of the major substance abuse treatment programs in the County. One of the Community Bridges staff goes with HOPE outreach team once a week. A representative from Magellan (behavior health provider in Maricopa, County) also goes with HOPE staff. Staff has been successful in getting people into psychiatric treatment.
- Serve about 50 people per week, and since HOPE's inception, over 700 unduplicated homeless individuals have been served.
- About 25% of those served are women.
- The average person served is an adult man between 30 and 50 years of age. About 20% of them are veterans, and about 75% have been able to receive services. HOPE hasn't been able to end their homelessness, but is one piece of the puzzle. Resources are limited.
- Have been able to place some on Section 8 housing program and others into treatment through Magellan.
- HOPE participates in the shower program every Monday and Friday morning at the Methodist Church, and is also involved in the Project Homeless Connect efforts on a quarterly basis. HOPE also partners with the Salvation Army with the Tumbleweed program, with the Tempe Community Action Agency, and the IHELP program.
- HOPE is a part of the continuum of care in Tempe.

Councilmember Woods stated that one of the comments from the Interfaith Breakfast on December 4<sup>th</sup> was to make sure we make people more aware of the programs offered.

Mr. Mathews added that TCC is working with Mary Anna Bastin in Community Services to simplify and consolidate all of the volunteer opportunities on the website.

Ms. James added that Project Homeless Connect always needs volunteers.

Councilmember Woods added that the other committee he sits on is the Technology, Economic and Community Development Committee and he will talk to people there to get that information on the website.

Mr. Mathews added that Tempe Channel 11 can also be utilized for training or educational videos on homeless concern issues, as well as inserting something in the water bill.

Ms. James added that the next Project Homeless Connect will be held on January 23, from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., at the Tempe First United Methodist Church. Also, the homeless count as part of the process for HUD funds will take place on January 27<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Agenda Item 6 – Upcoming Meeting Schedule**

The next meeting will be on January 27<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m.

**Agenda Item 7 – Future Agenda Items**

- Housing Trust Fund
- Mobile Home Ordinance update
- Results of homeless count

Meeting adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

Prepared by: Connie Krosschell  
Reviewed by: Liz Chavez

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Jan Hort  
City Clerk