



Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

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Housing Committee Minutes

Thursday, July 21, 2011 Meeting

Offices of the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMA)
DuPage County Conference Room
Suite 800, 233 S. Wacker Drive, Chicago, Illinois

Committee Members

Present: Nancy Firfer, Chair, Nora Boyer, Liz Caton, Paul Colgan, Adam Dontz, Sharon Gorrell, Christine Kolb, Alan Quick, Carrol Roark, Joanna Trotter

Staff Present: Bob Dean, Thomas Gonzalez, Nicole Woods, Daniel Ungerleider

1.0 Call to Order and Introductions

Chair, Nancy Firfer, called the meeting to order at approximately 9:07 a.m.

2.0 Agenda Changes and Announcements

Motion to approve made by Adam Dontz, seconded by Christine Kolb and with all in favor carried.

3.0 Woodstock Institute, Evolving Foreclosure Response & RHOPI: Tom Feltner, Vice President & Katie Buitrago, Policy and Communications Associate

Woodstock staff discussed recent trends in foreclosure and vacant properties and how stakeholders across the region have mobilized a collaborative, inter-jurisdictional response through the Regional Home Ownership Preservation Initiative (RHOPI).

The presentation began with an overview of the current foreclosure climate in the region. The committee was informed the ups and downs of the past year will continue. Robo-signing, delinquencies not being filed and 2-3 month delays have affected the production of current reports being produced; one question on the table is how to get the best data to agencies.

The committee discussed cost of services to a property during foreclosure. Liz Canton and Sharon Gorrell asked about reimbursement of those services. The current state of lending was discussed, with Woodstock Institute informing the committee that there has been a 65% decline in lending in Chicago. Discussion also focused on mediation and counseling services available for persons facing/currently in foreclosure. The committee specifically discussed programs of the DuPage Homeownership Center, the Cook County Mediation program and direct outreach methods that encourage residents to attend their court dates and how to be prepared.

The second portion of the presentation focused on the Regional Home Ownership Preservation Initiative (RHOPI). The Initiative is currently completing a strategic

planning process. Committee members provided input on areas for further RHOPI input including: municipal leader education on condo loan products, front end counseling, financial literacy on products for people starting over, separate counseling for those who are self-employed, Department of Education creation of a credit/financial program in schools to get in front of the crisis early, addressing people that are close to foreclosure but not quite there and education on refinancing.

4.0 Community Planning Program: Bob Dean, CMAP

Bob Dean reviewed the Community Planning Program (CPP) program and selection process and informed the committee decisions would be made on July 22 and would be communicated to the committee. General questions regarding projects in Blue Island and concerning LeClaire Courts were raised, as well as questions about the selection criteria. Discussion surrounding the matching fund requirement resulted in the committee being informed that while CMAP does not require matching funds for CMAP selected projects, RTA requires a 20% fund match.

5.0 CMAP Updates: CMAP staff

- **LTA Update:** Nicole Woods presented an update on the SSMMA Housing Prioritization Tool, a project of the LTA program. The prioritization tool will be used to track funding, housing areas and development sites. Nicole described project committee structure and project deliverables. Joanna Trotter suggested the need for a financial representative on the project steering committee. Nicole Nutter raised questions regarding the quantitative vs. qualitative aspects of the project information, site readiness, political support & readiness, national brownfields research and absorption rates. Sharon Gorrell asked how mixed use sites, TIF and enterprise zones will be incorporated into the project. Paul Colgan suggested additional research on political acceptance and zoning acceptance of the project by big communities. Christine Kolb also advised looking into strategic investment sites.
- **Homes for a Changing Region Update:** Nancy Firfer informed committee members Northwest HOMES project will be kicking off in January 2012, West Cook HOMES has begun setting dates for initial public meetings (Maywood-Sept. 1, Oak Park-Sept. 8, and Forest Park-Sept. 14; dates for Berwyn and Bellwood are TBD) and South Suburbs HOMES is preparing for the second phase of its process
- **Legislative Update:** Housing Committee members were provided the most up to date Legislative Update memo.

6.0 Public Comment

There were no comments from the public.

7.0 Next Meeting

The Housing Committee meeting scheduled for August 18, 2011, has been cancelled. The next meeting will take place **Thursday, September 15th**.

8.0 Adjournment

A motion to adjourn at 11:10 a.m., made by Nancy Firfer, seconded by Paul Colgan and with all in favor, carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Kendra Smith
Committee Liaison