



Housing Committee Minutes

Thursday, June 16, 2011 Meeting

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

Committee Members

Present: Nancy Firfer, Chair, Sharon Gorrell, Adam Gross, Tammie Grossman, Calvin Holmes, Christine Kolb, Janice Morrissy, Nicole Nutter, Alan Quick, Joanna Trotter

Staff Present: Hala Ahmed, Pete Saunders, Drew Williams-Clark

1.0 Call to Order and Introductions

Chair, Nancy Firfer, called the meeting to order at approximately 9:05 a.m.

2.0 Agenda Changes and Announcements

Motion to approve changes made by Calvin Holmes, seconded by Christine Kolb and with all in favor carried.

3.0 Illinois Housing Development Authority, Moving Forward Under New Leadership:

Mary Kenney, Executive Director, Illinois Housing Development Authority
IHDA's new Executive Director, Mary Kenney, presented programming and action steps that will take place under IHDA's new leadership. Housing Committee members were informed that IHDA is working in various collaboratives and groups to navigate difficult times in the industry, the Housing Appeals Board will be restaffed and a special commission task force to deal with foreclosure is being formed.

Director Kenney explained there are 3 main areas where IHDA will focus the majority of its time and resources: Foreclosure, Rental Housing & Supportive Housing Issues. In addressing the foreclosure crisis, IHDA is working primarily in Cook County through mediation and counseling programs. The Hardest Hit Fund will be launching in July providing \$450 million to help pay mortgages for up to 18 months for those with financial disruption. IHDA is also looking to stabilize distressed neighborhoods through loan products and rentals. According to a recent study, 1 in 3 Chicago renters is paying 50%+ of their income to rental costs. IHDA is working to provide additional affordable rental options as well as working with community organizations to address Supportive Housing concerns. IHDA is looking into using capital funds to assist with Supportive Housing issues. Director Kenney spoke about Low Income Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC) incentives

for communities with plans that support affordable housing and address fair housing issues.

Nancy Firfer asked about the Linkages program, Joanna Trotter inquired about condo foreclosures, Calvin Holmes asked about IHDA revenue and Qualified Residential Mortgages (Director Kenney stated IHDA will be active in Washington lobbying for HOMES, QRM and other initiatives), Sharon Gorrell asked about Neighborhood Stabilization Program.

4.0 Community Planning Program: Hala Ahmed, CMAP

Hala Ahmed provided committee members with an overview of the 20 Community Planning applications received. The Community Planning Program provides funding and planning assistance to communities for planning projects that will benefit local communities and the regional transportation system. Board approval is anticipated for August and project launches expected November –January 2012. Nicole Nutter provided additional information on how projects would be completed.

5.0 CMAP Updates: CMAP staff

- **LTA Update:** Pete Saunders discussed a proposed Housing Market Study/Absorption Analysis for the Green Healthy Neighborhood Plan. Joanna Trotter expressed that potential residents are looking for large lot options and diversity in housing stock is crucial. Marissa Novara, from MPC, asked about retail absorption and creative retail use. Calvin Holmes suggested LTA staff research Columbia Heights-Washington D.C. to garner ideas for aldermanic support and that communities should be open to embracing culture changes to revitalize their neighborhood. Nicole Nutter asked about priorities and if areas for investment had been identified based on what is salvageable in the area; also suggested we look at the existing communities report from the CDOT South Lakefront study.
- **Homes for a Changing Region Update:** Drew Williams-Clark informed committee members Northwest HOMES project will be kicking off in January 2012, West Cook HOMES has adopted the MOU and South Suburbs HOMES is in full swing, completing 4 public workshops in June with great community representation, projects are now moving into the recommendation phase
- **Legislative Update:** Housing Committee members were provided the most up to date Legislative Update memo. Adam Gross also gave additional information on vacant property legislation

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 12:05 p.m., made by Nancy Firfer, seconded by Janice Morrissey and with all in favor, carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Kendra Smith
Committee Liaison