

Housing Task Force
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, July 21 2016

City Council Chambers – Montpelier, VT

Attendees: Jack McCullough, Jo Ann Troiano, Kevin Casey, Polly Nichol, Liz Genge, Mary Hooper, Brooke Jenkins, Laura Biren (AmeriCorps VISTA)

- 1) Introductions.
- 2) All approved of agenda and minutes from prior meeting.
- 3) No public comment.
- 4) Member updates:
 - Mary Hooper updated on Housing Strategy Plan. Met with Bill Fraser and Housing Task Force/Planning Department is tasked with Housing Strategy Plan but due to zoning would wait until Fall 2016. First week in October is first meeting about this. Housing and Parking strategies are key for Montpelier.
 - Kevin updated on Economic Development Strategic Plan – housing was a huge component and suggested \$50,000 into Housing Trust Fund. Also Economic Strategic Plan suggests an LDC (local Development Corporation). First Time Homebuyers successes must be presented.
 - Liz Genge updated on Eileen/Downstreet meeting on July 29 to ask for \$200,000 for French Block project – this ask is separate from the Housing Trust Fund.
 - Quote: A trust fund is a “saving account for the future” and an investment.
 - Discussion of what an LDC is and the point of it for the City. LDC has the ability to have businesses thinking about location here, but without regulations of meetings with public sector.
 - Polly distributed Housing Trust Fund document/proposal – [click here to view](#) – requests someone to fact check the numbers. Kevin volunteered.
 - Housing Trust Fund has minimal costs to run and maximum benefits. Discussed asking council to put in 2 cents for housing.
 - Action: Meet with City Councilors this next month (August). More detail about waiting list for First Time Homebuyers. Jo will talk with Justin and Dona. Polly & Mary will talk with Jean and Tom. Liz & Brooke will talk with Jessica. Polly will talk with Anne. Polly & Jack will talk with John.
 - When talking to Councilors, discuss:
 - 1) Find \$200,000 for this year’s ask on French Block
 - 2) Agree to 2 cents for housing
 - Strategically – every 4 or 5 years there’s a big ask for the Housing Trust Fund. This must be planned for.
 - Housing Task Force should get a letter of support from Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission for Housing Trust Fund presentation to Council.
 - Jack – report to Council in 2014 by Housing Task Force – will email out to the Housing Task Force to have information updated.
 - Defined Housing Strategy and how it fits into the Master Plan update. Kevin will send out a fact sheet.

Housing Task Force will present to City Council on September 21 2016 – must get on agenda. Kevin will touch base with Bill Fraser about Housing Task Force presentation on Housing Trust Fund.

Tap into letters to the editor, homelessness listserv, realtors, any successes out of First Time Homebuyers.

- 5) Homelessness Forum:
Council, during Housing Task Force presentation to Council, brought up increasing Montpelier's donation to Good Samaritan Haven from Community Fund budget. Possible project for family shelter in Montpelier. Current vacancy on Community Fund Board as well as two reappointments on Planning Commission. Will update more next meeting on follow up from homelessness forum.
- 6) Zoning Update:
Mayor proposed change to Mixed Use Residential to High Density Residential. There are a number of projects waiting for new zoning which are now delayed. Alert Housing Task Force of when should show up to zoning updates at City Council.
- 7) Housing Trust Fund update included in number 4.
- 8) Meeting adjourned at 7:00 PM.

Next meeting set for Thursday, August 18 2016