Minutes of the AHAC Meeting April 9, 2019

Members Present: Sandra Shank, Thomas Stauffacher, Rick Belhumeur, Dorothy Sperber, Carmen Bongiovanni, Tammy Yorke, Jay Roberts, Diana Seydlorsky.

Members Absent: Commissioner Joe Mullins, Denise Santa Maria, Tammi Marquis

Staff Present: Ralston Reodica, Gina Lemon, Kathy Kiley (volunteer)

Members of the Public Present: Rodney Lucas

1. Call to order: Sandra Shank

2. Sandra Shank made a motion to approve the minutes of the last meeting on March 12, 2019. Rick Belhumeur motioned to approve the minutes and Thomas Stauffacher second it.

3. Sadowski Funding: Ralston presented a Sadowski Coalition handout concerning SHIP funding. It compares full funding vs. actual funding for Flagler, St. Johns and Volusia counties and the impact SHIP funding has on the economy. In May the legislation session ends and hopefully we will find out the amount of budget that was allocated for 2019-2020 year. The Florida Governor and the Senate both proposed full funding of the Sadowski Housing Trust Fund, however the House proposed sweeping $200 million out of the Fund and allocating $0 to SHIP programs not affected by Hurricane Michael. Ralston stated full funding of the Sadowski Housing Trust Fund and particularly SHIP funding is a challenge each year and more advocacy is needed. Thomas asked what can AHAC do to advocate for funding. Constituent input should be directed via call or email to Representative Paul Renner to voice concern over the continued sweep of the Sadowski Housing Trust Fund and explain the impact to Flagler County. Sandra stated she is working on a video which will explain the impact of funding as they have interviewed SHIP recipients and will share their story. Also, Sandra stated realtors attended a realtor seminar, Great American Realtor Days. Rep. Renner was in attendance and was not fully supportive of the SHIP funds. However, he would like to see if the local government would come up with alternative funding and share in the assistance. Individually and together the representatives in the House needs to be contacted and made aware of the impact SHIP and other funding programs have on the economy. There are very powerful impact stories from the recipients. Sandra encouraged everyone to contact Rep. Renner’s office and try to convince him and the Florida House to consider supporting the SHIP program. In order to bring
awareness to the citizens of Flagler County, Ralston suggested one could write an opinion article for the local paper to explain the importance of this program and the impact the funds have on the local economy and community health and wellbeing. Also, per Diana, Duval County came up with a self-funding program. They charged the prospective buyer zero to 1% interest on a loan. However, in order to propel this program, they relied on SHIP and HOME funds. Through this program, a lien was placed on the property with the expectation of the home owner to pay back the loan. There is a lot to consider and to study other sources of funding in the event SHIP funding is no longer available. Duval and Pinellas Counties have funding programs in place that will be explored.

4. Fair Housing: Fair Housing Ordinance has not been updated in quite a while. Ralston will forward the ordinance to all members. Sandra requested all members to review and be prepared to discuss at the next meeting.

The Housing Fair is scheduled for April 27, 2019 at 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. Flyers will be sent to all committee members in order to share with others.

5. Public Comments: None

6. Other Business: The Town Center development is going forward with a certain amount of units to be affordable. This is a step in the right direction and needed in Flagler County.

7. Community Land Trust: Ralston gave the committee a handout describing Community Land Trust and the workings of a CLT. CLT is a nonprofit/program to assist those in a high cost area. Flagler County could eventually become a high cost area. The CLT may be a very good program to adapt in order to protect and preserve affordable housing in Flagler County.

8. Adjourn: Jay Roberts made a motion to adjourn, Rick Belhumeur second it.

Next meeting, May 14, 2019