

## Affordable Housing Advisory Committee Minutes of the Meeting Dec. 11, 2018

Members Present: Sandra Shank, Thomas Stauffacher, Denise Santa Maria, Carmen Bongiovanni, Joe Kowalsky

Members Absent: Charlie Ericksen, Dorothy Sperber, Rick Belhumeur

Staff Present: Ralston Reodica

Review of minutes from the November 13, 2018 regular meeting was approved

Discussion of Committee's 2019 Priorities and Housing Objectives:

- 1) NIMBY – To educate citizens and the county commission and city councils on Affordable or Workforce Housing. Not all residents in affordable housing are on section 8. There are members on the commission/councils that are in favor of affordable housing. Sandra suggested we put together a power point or a video to present to the county/city to advocate for affordable housing. It was suggested that we contact the women from Gainesville who presented to us a Power Point presentation on affordable housing. Perhaps we could enhance this presentation for our use.
- 2) We may want to contact the North East Council of Realtors who is advocating for affordable housing.
- 3) Rent is a growing problem, those who grew up here cannot afford to work or live here and therefore go elsewhere. For example, there is a 911 operator who cannot afford to rent and as a result lives with her parents.
- 4) Ralston suggested we need a subcommittee to head off the power point or video program. It was suggested to put actual people into the video as this type of presentation can be very useful and would help to advance our cause. It was suggested to present this not only to the commission/council members but to various groups.
- 5) It was suggested to amend the SHIP program to have the recipients pay back a portion of the SHIP funds. The SHIP program is totally forgivable after 15 years. Sandra suggested perhaps if the SHIP clients pay back \$500.00 per year that would help to increase our SHIP funds. Ralston stated he is only one person and does not have time to do the accounting and collecting of these funds. Sandra would like to have an assistant to Ralston at this time we do not have the funding as the SHIP funds has been cut by the state. Pasco County has a repayment plan and has enhanced their funds and their staff.

- 6) Ralston proposed an asset limit for our clients. He had a client, moderate income level, who applied for SHIP assistance, however, he had \$100,000.00 in a retirement plan. This person eventually dropped out of the program. Ralston stated the HOME funding program has an asset limit of \$30,000.00 for regular assets and \$100,000.00 for retirement assets. This will be discussed in the January meeting.
- 7) Ralston will review the 2019 – 2022 plan at the next meeting and highlight areas to be discussed and possibly changed.

Public Comments:

- 1) Ginny Mulligan stated the Chicago area had church leaders, pastors, etc., speak to the officials concerning affordable housing this was very effective. It was suggested to possibly speak to various church groups.
- 2) Ralston made the announcement that David Alfin resigned and his spot on our board is open.
- 3) Next meeting we will have the election of the Chair and Vice Chair.

Possible Guest Speakers:

Representative from the Chamber of Commerce, Veterans Department, perhaps a representative from The Palms who is developing in the Town Center.

Adjourn: Sandra Shank made a motion to adjourn and was approved.