

## Minutes of the AHAC Meeting February 5, 2019

Members Present: Sandra Shank, Rick Belhumeur, Denise Santa Maria, Commissioner Joe Mullins, Carmen Bongiovanni, Jay Roberts, Pastor Charles Silano

Members Absent: Thomas Stauffacher, Dorothy Sperber, Tammy Yorke

Staff Present: Ralston Reodica – SHIP Administrator

Members of the public present: Mike Cocchiola, Bob Coffman, Rodney Lucas

1. Call to order: Sandra Shank
2. Welcome to new members, Tammy Yorke, Jay Roberts, Pastor Charles Silano, and Commissioner Joe Mullins.
3. Rick Belhumeur made a motion to approve the minutes for the meetings on December 11, 2019 and January 8, 2019 and Carmen Bongiovanni second it.
4. Ralston began the meeting with a SHIP Power Point presentation as we have new members and guests. He explained the importance of affordable housing for our community and the various aspects of SHIP funds. He reviewed the income levels for recipients of these funds and how the program works.
5. Ralston reviewed the importance of the Sadowski funds to be used for affordable housing as the State has been sweeping these funds for other usage. Flagler County have received the lowest funding level from July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019. We are advocating for a stop to the sweep of these funds which are used for purposes other than affordable housing. However, we are cautiously optimistic the new governor may be on board to advance affordable housing.
6. Mr. Mullins stated the public has a negative perception of affordable housing or workforce housing. He stated we have two groups of people who may qualify for affordable housing. Those who have minimum wage jobs as well as teachers, police officers, fire men and women, etc.

There is a growing number of people who need affordable or workforce housing in our county. We are trying to do a better job to explain, and educate the public as well as our county and city government, the value of affordable housing. Also, we have the land in Flagler County that can be developed and we are willing to work with those who would be interested in this cause. New development in the Town Center area is in progress with 20% held aside for affordable housing which is a very good start for our cause. Further discussion from obtaining a

construction loan from a bank to advocating for the advancement of the Sadowski funds were stated.

Priority and our objective is to become a Sadowski advocate in order to obtain proper funding for our SHIP program. This is very much needed to expand our services to the community. Also, to continue to be involved in city and county meetings to advance affordable housing.

#### 7. Public Comments:

Mike Cocchiola, president of the Palm Coast Democratic Club, commented on our aging community. He suggested good marketing efforts to educate the public. Carmen suggested he attend the City Council meetings and promote affordable housing. Also discussed is a mobile home community on Old Kings Road which the community is fighting. Rodney Lucas, Community Development Director of the City of Bunnell, is advocating for affordable housing in his community.

In summary, there was consensus that education and advocacy is the key to success. As a team the Committee will view and study other communities who have been successful in this endeavor. There is a great need in the community and a great group of people on this board and attendees who is willing to work for the cause.

Adjourn: Sandra motion to adjourn and Rick Belhumeur approved it and Jay Roberts second it.

Next meeting will be on Tuesday, March 12, 2019.