

COUNCIL ON HOUSING  
Public Session  
Luther Towers Building I  
Dover, Delaware  
February 11, 2015

**Motions**

- Approval of the January 14, 2015 Minutes.
- Recommendation of approval to the Director for Resolution No. 501 – Blackbird Landing/Clint Walker House.

**Action Items**

- DDD concessions/incentives to be compiled and published on DSHA website. List will also be printed on the back of DDD maps for the Council's use.
- Ms. Blythe will email a current Council listing to all members.

**Important Dates**

- March 10 – meeting with the Governor, 10:00 a.m. in Wilmington
- March 11 – next Council meeting, Buena Vista

Due to the absence of Mr. Peters, Chair, and Mr. Leahy, Vice Chair, at this meeting, Council voted unanimously that Ms. Louder act as Chair.

Ms. Louder, Acting Chair, called to order the public session of the Council on Housing at 2:10 p.m. on February 11, 2015. In addition to Ms. Louder, the following Council members were present:

Francis Julian	Ruth Sokolowski
Corrine Massey	Vincent White
Donna Mitchell	Norma Zumsteg

The following members were absent and excused from the meeting:

Hugh Leahy	Ralph Peters
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Also attending:

Anas Ben Addi, Director, Delaware State Housing Authority (DSHA)  
Lynda Blythe, Administrative Specialist III, DSHA  
Susan Eliason, Director of Housing Development, DSHA  
Marlena Gibson, Director of Policy and Planning, DSHA

Guest present:

Alan Matas, Connections CSP, Inc.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Ms. Zumsteg moved that the Minutes of January 14, 2015 be accepted, as amended, with the correction that Ms. Sokolowski was also in attendance. Ms. Massey seconded the motion which was unanimously passed.

## **DSHA REPORT** – Anas Ben Addi

- **Joint Finance Committee (JFC) Budget Hearing/Bond Bill Hearing**
  - The JFC Budget Hearing was held Tuesday, February 10, 2015 at which time DSHA's general budget request was presented.
  - Mr. White was thanked for presenting Council's message.
  - The Legislature should be more educated as to the Council's composition, resources, and talents each Member provides.
  - Several affordable housing advocates also attended.
  - The Bond Bill hearing will be held Thursday, March 5, 2015 at 2:30 p.m. in Legislative Hall.
  
- **Downtown Development Districts (DDD)**
  - Dover, Wilmington, and Seaford were designated as the first three DDDs.
  - All three Districts have been visited by DSHA.
  - Mr. Ben Addi and Ms. Eliason also attended the monthly Downtown Dover Merchants meeting on February 10<sup>th</sup>.
  - Developers may now apply for either small or large project funds.
  - DSHA is working to establish lenders who will accept reservations as collateral for loans.
  - The City of Dover was commended for its active marketing.

Mr. White asked that a list of concessions/incentives for the DDD program be compiled and published. Once the Office of State Planning compiles the list, it will be posted on DSHA's website with links to specific DDDs and will also be printed on the back of each DDD map for the Council's use.

- **Strong Neighborhoods Housing Fund**
  - An award ceremony for this program will be held February 12<sup>th</sup>.
  - Seven applications from all three counties totaling \$8.3 million, for the \$2.8 million available, have been received.
  - There will be a partial funding of four of the seven applications covering approximately 50-52 houses.
  - It is hoped the Legislature will increase the funding to \$10 million in FY16.
  
- **Veteran Homelessness**
  - Governor Markell has tasked DSHA and the Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) to develop a plan to end veteran homelessness by the end of 2015.
  - The plan is an offshoot of First Lady Michelle Obama's initiative called "The Mayors' Challenge to End Homelessness".
  - Delaware Mayors offices will be contacted to eliminate duplication of plans.
  - The Veterans Affairs Commission on the state level, the Homeless Planning Council, and Connections CSP will be invited to meet and assist in developing the plan.
  - Council members are invited to attend upcoming meetings. Members interested should contact Mr. Ben Addi or Ms. Gibson for specific details.

- DSHA and DHSS expect to have small, hands-on, working group meetings to formulate the plan and have ready for the Governor to announce by late spring.
- An assessment of resources available at this time will be made and organized to match resources with need.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **LOAN REVIEW** – Ms. Mitchell

The committee met February 3<sup>rd</sup> and reviewed the funding request from Connections CSP, Inc. for Blackbird Landing/Clint Walker House. After due discussion, it is the recommendation of the committee that the following request be considered by the Council for recommending approval to the DSHA Director:

- Connections CSP, Inc. for Blackbird Landing/Clint Walker Houses – Resolution No. 501. Ms. Zumsteg moved to forward recommendation of approval to the DSHA Director. Mr. White seconded the motion which was unanimously passed.

Mr. Matas may be contacted for house tours.

Future Synopses will include a ‘Google’ map of the project’s location.

**OPERATIONS** – No report per Ms. Louder.

**HOUSING POLICY** – No report per Ms. Louder on behalf of Mr. Peters.

**COMMUNICATIONS** – No report per Ms. Sokolowski.

## **OTHER BUSINESS – OLD/NEW**

The annual meeting with the Governor will be on Tuesday, March 10<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. Ms. Sokolowski and Ms. Zumsteg will attend.

Ms. Blythe will email a current Council listing to all members.

## **SCHEDULING OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on March 11, 2015, at 2:00 p.m. at Buena Vista Conference Center, New Castle, DE.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Upon motion made by Ms. Sokolowski the meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Lynda T. Blythe

Note: Copies of materials referenced as “attached” in these Minutes are available upon request.