

COUNCIL ON HOUSING  
Public Session  
Roma's Italian Restaurant  
3 President Drive  
Dover, DE 19901  
December 14, 2016

**Motions**

- Approval of November 9, 2016 Minutes

**Important Dates**

Mr. Leahy, Chair, called to order the public session of the Council on Housing at 11:00 a.m. on December 14, 2016. In addition to Mr. Leahy, the following Council members were present:

Robert Harra	Francis Julian	Ralph Peters
Ruth Sokolowski	Vincent M. White	Norma Zumsteg

The following council members were absent and excused from the meeting:

Connie Harrington	Corrine Massey	Donna Mitchell
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Also attending:

Susan Eliason, Director of Housing Development, DSHA  
Marlena Gibson, Director of Policy and Planning, DSHA  
Shanná Alicea, Administrative Specialist III, DSHA

Guests present:

Larry Trunfio, Office of Management & Budget

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Peters moved and Mr. Harra seconded, that the Minutes of November 9, 2016 be approved as written. The motion was passed unanimously.

**DSHA REPORT:** Susan Eliason

**Budget**

- November 17<sup>th</sup> was the DSHA Budget Public Hearing with Office of Management and Budget which Mr. Leahy attended to testify and advocate on the behalf of DSHA.
- Funding request for HDF and ARHP funding will be the same as last year along with the request for DDD funding being the same. The ARHP and the DDD are traditionally paid from the Bond Bill.

Mr. Peters suggested the Policy Committee make it a priority issue that funding for the ARHP and HDF come out of the General Funds and no other sources. Mr. Leahy stated this request is clearly stated in the Annual Report and Council will continue to advocate that DSHA funding be appropriated from General Funds.

- DSHA received Settlement funds from Bank of America at the beginning of the fiscal year and the majority of it will be going to the Strong Neighborhood Housing program. \$5.7 million will be dedicated to this program. This program focuses on vacant, abandoned, or foreclosed housing in stressed neighborhoods.
- Funding round was open in August and applications came in on December 2<sup>nd</sup>. Five applications, totaling requests for \$8.6 million, were received.
- Requests came in statewide from both nonprofits and entitlement jurisdictions.
- \$1 million in BOA Settlement Funds is set aside for foreclosure financial coaching.
- \$2.5 million in BOA Settlement Funds will be used for the SRAP program which will be expanding. This program, operated with the Department of Education and now known as HomeWorks will be adding two additional districts, Seaford and Capital.
- The National Housing Trust Fund allocations which DSHA will be receiving from Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac is approximately \$3 million and will be incorporated in 2017 QAP. DSHA will be putting \$2.1 million of these funds into a Tax Credit project that will be creating new affordable units for extremely low income families.
- DSHA will also have a small set aside on National Housing Trust Fund dollars of the DDD program for nonprofits providing permanent supportive housing.
- There were 18 applications received for the open funding round. These requests totaled approximately \$3.5 million of the \$6 million allocated for the DDD program. In February or March of 2017 DSHA will likely hold a second round of funding to insure all funding is allocated.
- QAP meeting was held on December 8th at Liberty Court. The biggest change this year was the energy certification options. DSHA has added a few new certifications and has received a grant from DNREC. DSHA has hired an energy consultant to provide technical assistance to help the 2016 awardees and to help DSHA with the 2017 QAP language.
- Final QAP will be signed and published under Governor Markell administration and will be posted the first week in January 2017. All documents pertaining to the QAP are and will be posted on DSHA's website.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**LOAN REVIEW:** Ms. Eliason for Ms. Mitchell

Nothing to report

**HOUSING POLICY:** Mr. White

Mr. White mentioned he had asked that the article regarding Delaware's foreclosure rate be included in this month's COH package. The article is entitled, "Delaware's foreclosure rate tops in nation."

**COMMUNICATIONS:** Ms. Sokolowski

Nothing to report

**OPERATIONS:** Mr. Harra

Nothing to report

**OLD / NEW BUSINESS:** Mr. Trunfio, Office of Management & Budget

Mr. Trunfio discussed with Council the Strategic Planning process for the next Council meeting. A scheduled date of January 26, 2017 was confirmed for the next COH meeting on Strategic Planning to discuss the Strengths, Weakness, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) of the Council's mission and vision.

**ADMINISTRATIVE:**

**SCHEDULING OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, January 26, 2017 at Luther Towers from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shanná L. Alicea". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "S".

Shanná L. Alicea

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