

COUNCIL ON HOUSING  
Public Session  
Duncan Center  
500 Loockerman, Dover DE 19904  
December 13, 2017

**Motions**

- Approval of November 8, 2017 Minutes

**Important Dates**

- Continuum of Care Annual Meeting – January 17, 2018
- Delaware LIFE Conference – January 24, 2018
- Delaware Point in Time Study – January 31, 2018

Mr. Leahy, Chair, called to order the public session of the Council on Housing at 11:00am, December 13, 2017. In addition to Mr. Leahy, the following Council members were present:

Connie Harrington	Francis Julian	Corrine Massey	Ruth Sokolowski
Vincent White	Norma Zumsteg		

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

Robert Harra	Donna Mitchell	Ralph Peters
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Also attending:

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

Guests present:

Martin M. Harrison, Habitat for Humanity NCC  
Helen McAnory, Diamond State CLT  
Dan Simpson, Central DE Habitat for Humanity  
Ken Smith, Diamond State CLT  
Jocelyn Tice, Central DE Habitat for Humanity

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Julian moved and Ms. Zumsteg seconded that the Minutes of November 8, 2017 meeting be approved. The motion was passed unanimously.

**DSHA REPORT** – Marlena Gibson

- **Budget**
  - OMB Budget hearing was held at Legislative Hall on November 15, 2017 and went pretty well. Mr. Leahy was present and provided testimony on behalf of Council.
  - Mr. Ben Addi also was present and requested additional funding for the Strong Neighborhood Housing Fund and the ongoing investment on redevelopment.
  - QAP is still on going with the final draft being worked on by DSHA staff members and should be finalized within the next several weeks.

- Tax reform is still an issue but discussion is ongoing to possibly keep private activity bonds but limiting what their uses could be and whether or not housing remains as an eligible use is the big question.
- If the House version of the tax reform bill is passed and signed, DSHA and other Housing Finance Agencies will no longer be able to issue bonds. This elimination also means DSHA will no longer be able to issue First Time Home Buyer tax credits and will not be able to offer the 4% tax credit. This program which was launched in 2014 has helped over a 1000 homebuyers in Delaware annually.
- Mr. Ben Addi who is a member of the Family Services Cabinet Council has been participating actively in several subcommittees that meet and discuss the activities working on reentry, education, reducing traumatic events for children, ACEs (Adverse Childhood Experiences) and neighborhood conditions. Also discussed was a statewide data sharing initiative to develop a framework for ongoing improved data sharing across state and local agencies.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **COMMUNICATIONS:** Mr. Leahy

Mr. Leahy and Mr. White met with Governor Carney on December 6, 2017. Discussed was the following:

- Family homelessness
- Impact on Education for homeless children
- DDD programs
- The Christina School District program that identifies and helps children who are homeless and how the SRAP and HDF programs help these families.
- Strong Neighborhood Housing Fund
- Invited him to any of our monthly meetings

### **OPERATIONS:** Ms. Harrington

None

### **HOUSING POLICY:** Ms. Gibson

None

## **LOAN REVIEW** Mr. Julian

The committee met December 4, 2017 and reviewed six HDF grant requests. It is the recommendation of the committee, after due discussion, that the following grant requests be approved by the Council and a recommendation for approval made to the DSHA Director:

- Central Delaware Habitat for Humanity – Jackson Street Project Resolution #565. Mr. Julian moved and Mr. White seconded which was passed 5 yes and one abstention by Ms. Harrington due to her conflict of interest.
- Sussex County Habitat for Humanity – Downtown Seaford, Phase III Resolution #566. Mr. Julian moved and Ms. Harrington seconded which was passed unanimously.
- Milford Housing Development Corporation – Harmony Hills Resolution #567. Mr. Julian moved and Mr. White seconded which was passed 5 yes and one abstention by Ms. Harrington due to her conflict of interest.
- Diamond State Community Land Trust – Ingram Village III Homes, Phase III Resolution #568. Mr. Julian moved and Mr. White seconded which was passed 5 yes and one abstention by Ms. Harrington due to her conflict of interest.
- Sussex County Habitat for Humanity – Ingram Village Phase IV Resolution #569. Mr. Julian moved and Mr. White seconded which was passed 5 yes and one abstention by Ms. Harrington due to her conflict of interest.

- Habitat for Humanity of New Castle County – Hope Run Resolution #570. Mr. Julian moved and Mr. White seconded which was passed unanimously.

**OLD / NEW BUSINESS:** Mr. Leahy

- Retirement of Ruth Sokolowski from Council - Resolution #571 was introduced with the recognition and appreciation of Ruth Sokolowski' s dedication to promoting affordable housing and community development for all Delawareans. Ms. Zumsteg moved and Mr. Julian second which was passed unanimously.

**ADMINISTRATIVE:** Mr. Leahy

None

**SCHEDULING OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 10, 2018, Dover, DE from 2:00 p.m. to 4:30 pm.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Shanná L. Alicea

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