

Minutes of Special Meeting
HOUSING PROGRAMS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Village of Oak Park
July 19, 2017
7:00 pm – Room 215

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was officially called to order at 7:35 pm.

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: Trisha Girdwood, Mary Mauney, Nicholas Reise, Catharine Schutzius, Dominic Tocci (Chair)

ABSENT: Frank FioRito, Debby Macey

STAFF PRESENT: Andrew Williams-Clark (staff liaison)

PUBLIC PRESENT: Michael Stewart, Oak Park Regional Housing Center

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA: No agenda changes were proposed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The meeting date on the draft minutes was corrected from May 25, 2017 to the correct date, which was June 21, 2017. Ms. Girdwood moved to approve the minutes with the aforementioned change. Ms. Mauney seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT: No non-agenda public comment was provided.

REVIEW OF MULTI-FAMILY INCENTIVES PROGRAM GUIDELINES: Committee members were interested in re-activating the Rental Reimbursement component of the MFI Program and asked Mr. Stewart to provide his ideas on how the guidelines should be changed to improve program effectiveness if landlords were invited to participate. He indicated that most landlords felt that the 30-day waiting period was a barrier to most landlords participating, especially in the current “hot” rental market. Some members felt that invitations should be focused on landlords with units that have more than one bedroom, because these units are rare in older, more affordable buildings in Oak Park. Others wondered how landlords would be targeted without the occupancy reports by race, which are no longer required for annual rental license renewal. Mr. Williams-Clark noted that the annual American Community Survey provides data that shows which small areas are least integrated, which could be used to focus invitations.

The conversation then broadened to discuss ways that the grant component of the MFI Program could be improved. Some committee members felt that the scoring criteria essentially preferences investment in buildings on Austin, which could be interpreted as incenting gentrification. Mr. Stewart responded saying that, one of the program’s goals has always been to make sure that buildings on Austin are kept in a condition similar to those further west. The committee reviewed the rental demography maps from the June meeting and noted that they show much of the

west of the west side of Oak Park as being more segregated (majority) white. Mr. Stewart responded that most of the rental units on the west side, excluding the brand new developments, tend to be condominiums or single-family homes that tend not to list with the Housing Center. He asked Mr. Williams-Clark to provide any information to help him follow-up with unit owners on the west side, because he would be happy to work with them.

Committee members decided to table discussion for an upcoming meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS: No other business was identified.

ADJOURNMENT: Ms. Schutzius moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 p.m. Ms. Mauney seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Andrew Williams-Clark, Staff Liaison