

PROJECT UNITY

MEETING SYNOPSIS | Neighborhood Revitalization & Housing

October 15, 2020 | 1:30 pm

The following is a summary of the first meeting of the Neighborhood Revitalization & Housing subcommittee. The meeting was held virtually for subcommittee members and in the Daughtery Conference Room for staff.

Subcommittee Members Present:

Chris Hall
Ellen Potts
Jessica Alexander
Karen Burklew
Patrick Kennedy
Richard Henry
Jerry Carter
Mark Sullivan

Staff Present:

LaParry Howell (Project Team Leader)
LaShonda Kemp (Deputy Project Team Leader)
Brendan Moore (Team Leader)
Heather Hill (Team Leader)
Cristy Gilliam-DeLoach (Administrative Support)
Chad Hobbs (Associate City Attorney)

Welcome and Introductions:

LaParry Howell welcomed the subcommittee members to Project Unity. He introduced himself and each staff member proceeded to introduce himself or herself. Subcommittee members then introduced themselves and their professional backgrounds.

Subcommittee Roles and Expectations:

Brendan Moore went over the Order of Business. He explained that the group has the authority to add or remove goals and objectives as they see fit.

Meeting Expectations:

Heather Hill explained the expectations to the group. She advised all members to complete their ethics training and submit their short bios.

The group was open to a discussion of challenges and ideas best suited for neighborhood revitalization and housing.

Challenges:

- Blight and its socioeconomic impact
- Low property values

- Lack of neighborhood safety
- Lack of education and financial literacy
- Low home inventory due to short-term rental
- Decrease in lots for builders
- Lack of housing in safer neighborhoods
- Housing costs driven up by high demand market

Jerry Carter exited the meeting at 1:46 pm.

Ideas:

- Early intervention of troubled children and families
- Lighting
- Affordable housing in desired neighborhoods
- Incentives: capital, loans and grants
- Credit education and counseling
- Credit union sponsored financial literacy programs
- Housing counseling: credit, rental, and budgeting
- Increased police presence
- Incentives attractive to private sectors
- Increased sewer access for builders to develop more properties
- Repurpose of failed housing
- Building morale and pride in home ownership and in neighborhoods

Topics for the next meeting were discussed. These topics included:

- Addressing barriers
- Opportunities to remove barriers
- Defining terms such as: sustainable, affordable housing, work-force housing
- City demolitions
- Blight
- Ways to provide education and resources to actual individuals that live in the community.

There was a discussion of inviting Donny Jones of The Chamber of Commerce to the next meeting. All members agreed. The group was given the option to meet face-to-face or via Zoom for future meetings.

Adjourned at 2:31 pm