



- **Affordable Housing Trust Fund Balance update**

The current balance of the Affordable Housing Trust Fund is \$895,483.63, which has not changed since the previous month.

- **Request for Proposal from HOME Community Housing Development Organizations (CHDO) Update**

Ms. Wilkinson reported that the Community Housing Development Organizations (CHDO) request for proposal (RFP) has been approved and will go out for bid.

- **2019-2022 SHIP LHAP Update**

The Local Housing Assistance Plan (LHAP) has been approved by the City Commission and has been submitted to and accepted by the Florida Housing Finance Corporation.

#### **IV. NEW BUSINESS**

- **AHAC 2019 Work Plan**

The Board discussed goals for inclusion in the Committee's 2019 Work Plan, with Mr. Jernigan recommending that they seek to identify a permanent funding source for the Affordable Housing Trust Fund. Vice Chair Walters observed that a partial source has been identified in the sale of City-owned residential and commercial properties.

Mr. Jernigan asked what types of legal restrictions apply to occupational license taxes, stating that the addition of a small surcharge could be a potential funding source for affordable housing. He recommended that the Committee request additional information on this possibility from the City Attorney's Office, pointing out that this could provide a way for businesses that pay low wages to address the issue of affordable housing.

Chair Orshefsky cautioned that the use of these tax dollars may be limited by State Statute. Ms. Epstein agreed that this could be one way to raise awareness that many businesses do not pay their employees a living wage.

Chair Orshefsky observed that City consultant Kittelson and Associates is undertaking a study of the Downtown area as relates to alternative transportation systems and housing policy. She suggested that the Committee request a presentation on this study from the Department of Sustainable Development, as it will provide data specific to Fort Lauderdale.

The Board discussed the impact of wages and corporate awareness on affordable housing, including the potential impact of the medical cannabis industry as a revenue generator. They also addressed the Sadowski Fund and how it might be affected by this year's legislative session. Mr. Jernigan recalled that in earlier years, a local option real

estate transfer tax was discussed by the State Legislature; although this proposal never advanced beyond the State Senate, the ultimate result was the establishment of the Sadowski Fund. In recent years, however, many of these funds have been swept by the State Legislature. Mr. Jernigan asserted that making this fund an issue could call attention to how it has been used in the past.

Chair Orshefsky reiterated that once the State legislative session has concluded, the Department of Sustainable Development could be invited to make a presentation to the Committee to discuss any proposals they might have that could affect affordable housing. Mr. Jernigan added that the Committee members should also do their own research into affordable housing revenue sources across the country.

- **City Ordinance Amending Ordinance No. C-18-36 review and discussion**

Vice Chair Walters stated that today is his last meeting as a longtime member of the Committee. He assured the members that he would continue to follow the Committee's activities and remain involved in local issues addressing affordable housing. The Committee recognized his years of service with a round of applause.

The Committee moved on to discuss City Ordinance C-18-36, which governs how individuals are appointed to City advisory entities. Chair Orshefsky explained that this Ordinance can lead to an abrupt end of members' terms, which can deprive the advisory body of significant institutional memory.

Chair Orshefsky continued that members originally appointed by former City Commissioners are not assured of reappointment. She advised that while she had been appointed by former Commissioner Romney Rogers, her current Commissioner, Ben Sorensen, has a policy against appointing a registered lobbyist to an advisory body. For this reason, her term on the Committee will end on May 6, 2019, unless she is reappointed by another Commissioner or the Mayor. Chair Orshefsky echoed Vice Chair Walters' sentiment regarding her ongoing commitment to affordable housing issues and policy in Fort Lauderdale.

Ms. Wilkinson encouraged the Committee members to read the Ordinance closely so they will have a clear understanding of its intent.

**V. AGENDA TOPICS FOR NEXT MEETING**

None.

**VI. GOOD OF THE ORDER**

Ms. Wilkinson reported that State Housing Initiative Partnership (SHIP) is still being negotiated in the current Florida legislative session. She also advised that the federal budget proposes no funding for the HOME program, which the City uses toward

purchase assistance. The President's budget also proposes no funding for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program, and a significant decrease in Housing Opportunities for Persons with HIV/AIDS (HOPWA) funding.

Ms. Wilkinson continued that a Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) is working with D'Angelo Development, Inc. to provide houses in Sweeting Estates for less than \$300,000. Purchase assistance is provided to families earning up to 160% of the average median income. Interested parties can contact D'Angelo Development at (954) 463-0085 for more information.

With regard to steps the Committee members may be able to take on their own, Ms. Wilkinson recommended that they may be able to do more research toward implementing some of the affordable housing incentive plans discussed at previous meeting. She also recommended ongoing community outreach.

The members discussed how they might reach out to the Mayor or City Commissioners regarding reappointment for Chair Orshefsky. It was determined that the members would reach out to the Mayor and their individual Commissioners to express their desire for Chair Orshefsky to remain on the Committee.

**VII. NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING DATE – May 20, 2019**

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Committee at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 9:41 a.m.

Any written public comments made 48 hours prior to the meeting regarding items discussed during the proceedings have been attached hereto.

[Minutes prepared by K. McGuire, Prototype, Inc.]