

**CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON HOUSING
AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
TELECONFERENCE
June 8, 2021 | 6:30 p.m.**

Members Present: LaQunya Baker, Marcella Barnett, Lynn Bittel, Jaime Carolina, Vince Chowdhury, Demetra English, Erica Howard, Teri Marquantte, Bill Moran, Britany Noble, Hayley Reddish, and Jason Schneider

Members Absent: Charlene Wisner-Howard*
***Excused**

**Late Arrivals/
Early Departures:** N/A

Staff Present: Rodney Milton, Brittany McGaughy

Guests Present: N/A

Roll Call

Chairperson Teri Marquantte called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m. and roll call followed.

Approval of Agenda

Lynn Bittel motioned to approve the agenda as presented. Bill Moran seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

May 2021 minutes not available at time of meeting. Approval of minutes will be at next meeting July 13, 2021.

Public Comment

LaTonia Gore-Wideman from Ward V attended meeting. LaTonia introduced herself to the group. LaTonia currently works with Colorado Coalition for the Homeless. She stated she recently connected with Lana Dalton, Homelessness Program Manager and Jessica Prosser, Director of Housing and Community Services.

Committee Member Briefings - open

No Updates.

Communications from Staff

a. **CD Manager Updates – Rodney Milton, Manager**

- **Housing Strategy Update**

Rodney reviewed the three working groups in Housing Strategy which are the People working group, Places and Process working group and Production and Preservation working group. Each group is contributing to the City of Aurora strategic planning effort and all the departments within the city are moving through a strategic process of identifying vision statements, goals and objectives with themes like thriving and engagement. Rodney explained the group is still in the internal capacity building stage. Rodney explained that that we are trying to build our internal departments to collaborate with each other in ways that hadn't moved around housing and putting housing and housing affordability in the center of the conversations that we have with each other. Departments such as planning, urban renewal, finance, and others have been meeting on a periodic basis, very routine talking strictly about housing and housing affordability.

Rodney explained to our public member Mrs. LaTonia Gore-Wideman that the working group titled "People Working Group" would be of most interest to the type of work she does. Rodney explained that this particular group consists of all homelessness activities. Rodney mentioned the most recent event, which members of this committee attended, the Safe Outdoor Space initiative that helped identify the most appropriate options for sheltering for those experiencing homelessness. We partnered with Restoration Christian Ministries who provided us space to have these options on display. Some examples of shelter options on display included a tiny home, pallet home which is like an advanced shed, tents and other options that were open to the public to walk through these spaces. We received general feedback and votes from patrons who attended to this event regarding which sheltering options would be best. There were a diverse group of attendees at this event including stakeholders, council persons, the mayor, neighbors in the community and also those who are experiencing homelessness.

Rodney also mentioned that rental assistance falls under the "People" working group as well. Rodney highlighted we have just executed an inner government agreement with the State of Colorado to administer a fair amount of our rental assistance. This was done to increase our efficiency in our capacity, but also to make sure there's no duplication of services because a lot of different jurisdictions are administering this funding and to have a one stop shop.

From a production and preservation working group some of the highlights and accomplishments out of that working group, in terms of tangible outcomes will happen. We have just completed round one of funding to three agencies to carry out almost 250 plus units of housing. We are looking forward to our second round of funding to much larger. The second-round outcome will allow us to look at a pipeline of development and see what is possible, which is one of our focuses in the "Production and Preservation" working group.

The next working group titled "Places and Process" that deals with and focuses on where is the most appropriate place for development. Rodney explained this group focuses on the various project types, homeownership versus rental and improving and initiating ways of

doing things. Rodney explained this group is working to improve streamlining regular development.

Rodney explained that overall with the housing strategy and working groups we are working to display, track and monitor current outputs and outcomes. We are working to create narrative and storytelling of outputs and outcomes. We want to improve outreach and awareness of programs, services and improve overall community engagement.

Rodney advised that the COVID Response updates, CDBG-CV recommendation update and GAP Financing included in this update.

Discussion ensued. Staff answered the Committee members questions.

- **Housing 101- “Financing Affordable Housing”**

Rodney presented information regarding financing affordable housing. Rodney provided the group a link: <https://apps.urban.org/features/cost-of-affordable-housing/> . Rodney walked the group through the website. Rodney explained this website is a great source for walking through the development process. The website explains the process in which developers find and rely on funding and loans for construction and making sure they can generate enough rental income to pay back loans they’ve been given to create the development. The website explains different resources and common questions asked.

Discussion ensued. Staff answered the Committee members questions.

- b. **Loan Write-Offs – Jeff Hancock, Financial Supervisor**

Rodney presented the Write-off report.

Communications from Committee

- None.

Adjournment

- Marcella Barnett motioned to adjourn the meeting and Bill Moran seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 7:26 p.m.

Minutes taken by:

Brittany McGaughy 09/01/2021

Brittany McGaughy Date
Administrative Specialist
Housing and Community Services Department

Minutes reviewed by:

Rodney M. Milton, Jr.
Rodney Milton, Manager
Community Development Division

09/01/2021

Date

Minutes approved by:

Teri Marquante
Teri Marquante, Chairperson

7/13/2021

Date