

Citizens Advisory Committee on Housing and Community Development

Date | time February 13, 2024 | 6:30 PM | *Meeting called to order by* Jason Schneider

Attendance

Members Present: Lynn Bittel, Christopher Boyd, Jaime Carolina, Javier Chavez, Vince Chowdhury, Mohammad Faisal, Kristine McGuire, Teri Marquantte, Jason Schneider, Joshua Thaete, Charlene Wisner-Howard

Absent: Natacha Dana, Judy Donovan

Staff Present: Sarah Carroll, Bianey Castro, Alicia Montoya, Joe Tai, Connor Taub

Approval of Agenda

Lynn Bittel motioned to approve the agenda as presented. Charlene Wisner-Howard seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Lynn Bittel motioned to approve the minutes from January 9, 2024, with the changes as presented. Joshua Thaete seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Advisory Committee

There are a number of parent openings on the Advisory Committee. These openings were listed in the most recent newsletter. Three parents indicated an interest in serving on the committee. Erik Andersen will follow up with those parents and do some additional recruiting to fill these openings.

Public Comment

A new multicultural construction company called Vet Vest Group, introduced themselves. The owner is an American Indigenous decent, the manufacturing site builds affordable housing. Nicholas Walker.

Communications from Citizens Advisory Committee

Mercy Housing

- National nonprofit organization presented an overview including social impacts, programs (affordable housing development, property management, resident services, community capital), mission/model/values, national footprint, Colorado footprint, Real Estate development, New Developments, National Impact Goals (health & wellness, housing success), resident-centric approach, and volunteer engagement.

- Presenters: Shelly Marquez – President of Mercy Housing Mountain Plains, Joanna Crosby – Vice President, Resident Services, Carolyn Reid – Associate Director, Real Estate Development, and Ellen Abrams – Director of Philanthropy

Action Item: Committee Liaison, Connor Taub, will contact Mercy Housing to schedule a tour of one of the properties (ex: The Rose on Colfax, Grace Apartments). Mr. Taub will continue working to bring community speakers to committee meetings (July-December).

Future Community Speakers

- March – Aurora Housing Authority, April – Oakwood Homes, May – Columbia Ventures, June – Community Housing Partners

New Member Applications

- The City Council approved Kristine McGuire, Natacha Dana, and Javier Chavez to be appointed to the Citizens Advisory Committee on Housing and Community Development committee. New members Kristine McGuire and Javier Chavez introduced themselves.

Action Item: Executive subcommittee will interview four (4) more applicants for the remaining two (2) seats available on this committee.

Committee Term Limits

- Term limits for long-standing members were discussed. The Housing and Community Development Division will keep an active waiting list for individuals who have applied and want to be involved but are unable to officially join the committee due to maximum capacity.

Action Item: Committee Liaison, Connor Taub, will contact the City Clerks Office to update term limits for Teri Marquantte and Vince Chowdhury.

Groundbreakings, Grand Openings, and Volunteer Opportunities

- Groundbreakings, grand openings, and volunteer opportunities will be a standing agenda item that serves as a reminder to provide upcoming opportunities within the City of Aurora and community speakers/community organizations.

Action Item: Community Engagement Coordinator, Johnathan Harris, will add community engagement and communication efforts as a regular item for these meetings.

Future meeting topics

- Single family housing – affordable versus market rate housing development requirements in Aurora. Staff mentioned inclusionary zoning was part of the recommendations that will be brought forward to City Council in 2024.

Communication from Housing and Community Development

Division Updates

- Hiring and Recruitment – announced Community Program Specialist, Ana Fontes, who joined the Finance and Compliance Monitoring team last week. Also, one vacancy remains for the Intake & Compliance Specialist position which will support the Housing

Development team. Staff mentioned there is a funding gap as the Marijuana proceeds have been heavily used up over the past few years. The department is looking for funding through Proposition 123 to utilize for homelessness programs and other applicable programs.

- City Council – announced that the following items will be presented to City Council this month: parcels request for proposal recommendations, housing strategy update including Proposition 123 and the housing feasibility recommendations, 13th Avenue Station project lead by the Planning and Development Department (1,000 units and a bridge), and rehabilitation request for proposals. The 13th Avenue Station project will be presented to the Housing, Neighborhood Services & Redevelopment Policy Committee on February 29, 2024.

Action Items: Ana Fontes will be invited to join the next committee meeting to formally introduce herself. Staff will send a link to the job description and requirements for the Intake & Compliance Specialist position. Staff will contact the Homelessness Division Manager, Emma King, regarding plans to replace Marijuana funding in the upcoming year and future years. Staff will provide the address of 13th Avenue Station.

Finance and Compliance Monitoring

- Loan write off report – January 2024 write-off total: \$0; Program income received from loan repayment in January 2024: \$107,995.84; January 2024 program income breakdown for HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME): \$101,128.50 and Community Development Block Grant (CDBG): \$6,867.34

Housing Development

- Housing Rehabilitation Program – presenting partner recommendation to City Council this month.
- Parcel(s) Request for Proposals – presenting recommendation to the Executive Leadership on February 26, 2024. Started discussions with Real Property to release three (3) more parcels of land for request for proposal again.
- Community Investment Financing (CIF) – new verbiage has been added to the application for development partners during the agreement process. The spring round for the community investment financing will open in February.
- Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) – the draft will be out on February 15, 2024, and the notice to the paper goes out February 14, 2024. The notice will be published in the paper next week, then there is a 15-day public comment period.
- Colorado Construction Defect Laws – staff discussed Senate Bill 24-112 concerning the procedures governing construction defect actions. The Housing and Community Development Division Manager, Alicia Arkulary-Montoya, stated City Council, Mayor Coffman, and executive leadership have been very involved with all the bills. There is representation from the City of Aurora, the bills are sent for review to several staff in the Housing and Community Development Division. Staff provide comments and recommendations based on expertise.

Action Items: Housing Development Supervisor, Sarah Carroll, will send email requesting committee member volunteers for the CIF spring round interview panel. Staff will provide a preliminary walkthrough to ensure volunteers understand what to look for and how to respond to questions.

Motion

Lynn Bittel motioned to end the meeting. Jaime Carolina seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Jason Schneider announced the meeting could continue until 8:00 p.m. if needed.

Housing Programs

- Emergency Mortgage Assistance Program (EMAP) – January assistance: 64 total payments (51 existing clients, 13 approved new applicants), \$248,890 payments disbursed (1 lot rent, 7 homeowners association, 41 mortgage payments, 12 electric, 4 water. February assistance: 10 total payments, \$68,532.48 payments disbursed. Announced the City of Aurora’s contract with the Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) ends in April 2024. The city has spent over one million dollars of the 1.75 million grant from DOLA. The city does not believe they will be getting an extension of the grant or asking for more funding.
- First Time Homebuyer Education Seminars – February 3, 2024, in Spanish and February 24, 2024, in English at the Aurora Public Library. Staff mentioned 20 participants attended the seminar on January 27, 2024. Highlighted some topics that are taught in the seminar and why homebuyer education is important.
- Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) – starting conversations about relaunching this program to disburse the remaining funds, which is approximately \$300,000. This amount is what is left from the original grant which was approximately 19 million.

Action Items: Housing Programs Supervisor, Bianey Castro, will provide an update regarding ERAP in March 2024. Connor Taub will email members the link to register and get more information about the homebuyer education seminars.

Next Meeting

March 12, 2024 | 6:00 p.m., Aurora Municipal Center

Adjournment

Teri Marquante motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m. Christopher Boyd seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Signature Page


Jason Schneider (Mar 28, 2024 09:50 MDT)

Jason Schneider
Committee Chairperson

28/03/24

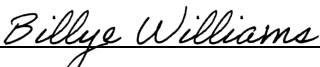
Date


Martha Alicia Arkulary-Montoya (Mar 28, 2024 09:50 MDT)

Martha Alicia Arkulary-Montoya
Manager of Community Development

28/03/24

Date


Billye Williams

Billye Williams
Administrative Specialist

03-28-2024

Date










Citizens Advisory Committee - Minutes (2.13.24)

Final Audit Report

2024-03-28

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