



Housing Opportunities Commission Minutes
January 13, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.
Virtual Online – WebEx Meeting


Members Present: Betzig-Lundberg, Crowell, Gomez, Gulbrandson, Moseley, Poser, Rogers, Theisen

Members Absent: Chaput; Councilmember Xiong

Staff Present: Allen, Draxler, Johnathan

1. Call to Order by Chairperson Crowell at 5:15 p.m. following technical difficulties
2. Roll Call – All attending members and staff were present virtually online.
3. Meeting Minutes – Minutes of December 9, 2020, were approved on a motion by Commissioner Poser and seconded by Commissioner Moseley.
4. Open public comment period for items that do not appear on this agenda noted as public hearings or public discussion. Dr. Susan Wolfram, 550 Graham Ave., Co-Chair of JONAH Affordable Housing Task Force provided comment on limited options for public comment at Commission meetings due to the nature of the items discussed before the Commission.
5. Public Discussions
 - A. Affordable Housing Fund Policy Recommendation – Commissioners discussed a draft policy recommendation that includes options 1.a. Competitive Awards for New Construction and 2.a. Rehabilitation of Existing Housing. Commissioner Moseley noted her agreement with the policy recommendation as submitted. Commissioner Rogers asked what the process would be to request these funds. Director Allen noted that this policy recommendation will begin the discussion with the City Council and likely lead to the Commission crafting the scoring and eligibility criteria. Commissioner Betzig-Lundberg clarified that the policy would include rehabilitation of existing housing. Commissioner Poser referenced the former grocery store on Clairemont to use as a homeless shelter as one example currently in use. Motion by Commissioner Poser to forward the recommendation to the City Council, seconded by Commissioner Moseley and the motion carried.
 - B. Approval of 2021 Work Plan – Commissioners reviewed each proposed work plan item and added examples of potential partners and noted a point person for each. Commissioner Moseley commented on the possibility of reviewing projects as they move through development review processes. Director Allen noted that this is not a specific charge of the Commission but could be presented to the Council as an opportunity in the future with a revised structure and by-laws. Commissioner Rogers offered as a starting point that the Community Development Department could inform the Commission as projects come forward. Chairperson Crowell added that this could be included in the work plan as an item to create a pathway for awareness of new projects under the Monitor Housing Inventory item. Commissioners identified Potential Partners for each work plan item. The Commission agreed to remove the Idea Source column. The Commission also suggested listing all Target Dates as ongoing for now, as well as the Point Person as City staff at this stage.
 - C. Review background information: Comprehensive Plan (Chapter 10: Housing Plan) – Director Allen gave a brief update on the status of the overall Comprehensive Plan 5-year review and requested any final comments and edits to be provided preferably before the Plan Commission's next work session on February 1, 2021. Commissioner Poser suggested updating the Special Needs list under Objective 3—Housing Diversity on page 10-9. Commissioner Poser added that she would provide staff with some additional revisions and updates.

6. Other Business Agenda Items – Commissioner Moseley asked if Commission agendas and minutes could be posted online? Director Allen noted that he would follow up with staff to ensure all materials would be provided online. Commissioner Rogers asked if the video of meetings could also be posted online? Director Allen agreed to look into this further since the City recently changed their public meeting media offerings.
7. Discussion and Direction
 - A. Future Agenda Items – The Commission suggested the following items for consideration at the next or future meeting: discussion on adding more public comment to meetings; Regional Planning Conference; presentation from Kurt Paulsen of UW-Madison; update on planning projects; City Council response to Affordable Housing Fund policy recommendation; finalize and approve 2021 Work Plan.
 - B. Announcements – None.
8. On a motion by Commissioner Moseley and seconded by Commissioner Betzig-Lundberg, the meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.



Beth Crowell, Chairperson