



March Standing Committee & Initiative Reports

Public Policy Committee

In March, the Policy Committee participated in a webinar around Equitable Transit Oriented Development (eTOD) with Susan Anderson from Enterprise Community Partners. How to creatively maximize existing resources that support eTOD – was the primary topic of discussion. The Committee also talked about the type of research still needed with regards to: Healthy Homes, Rental Registry, Progressive Tax Reform, Disposition of Public Land, and others.

Homeownership Committee

The Homeownership Committee met in March on the 27th at Jericho Road Episcopal Housing. A document containing talking points for policy priorities concerning homeownership will be circulated around to committee members to give input and feedback. For The Third Line, an initiative to partner with lenders to create a mortgage product designed to help nontraditional workers (musicians, service workers, culture bearers) achieve homeownership, the committee will reach out to ASI, Hope Lending, and CCCLT for next steps on mortgage alternative program for the special population of culture bearers, musicians, and service industry workers. The Soft Second Task Force will be identifying sources of funding, as well as looking at the Pre-Katrina numbers the city set aside for the Soft Second program in the past.

Rental Committee

The Healthy Homes ordinance has been deferred at both City Council meetings this month. The LHC released a draft QAP on March 15th, and the Rental Committee collaborated to produce comments, which have been drafted and are due April 5th. Members of the Committee attended and spoke at the Draft QAP Public Hearing on March 30th. The Energy Efficiency for All Coalition has been meeting regularly and advancing a study around the energy efficiency of rental buildings in New Orleans, as well as assisting in the planning of a national efficiency conference to be set in New Orleans in late May.

Outreach and Advocacy Committee

Current advocacy efforts include the rental registry, Smart Housing Mix Ordinance, HOME funds, federal budget cuts, Louisiana Housing Corporation, and Consolidated Plan. In March, the Outreach & Advocacy Committee formed a new advocacy strategy for GNOHA to form and mobilize a political base made up of our members and the clients that they serve. The title of the local campaign to influence the upcoming Mayoral election was named “Put Housing First,” and a small leadership group was formed within Outreach and Advocacy to lead this campaign. The first step in this process was the creation of pledge cards, which will be distributed to member organizations and brought to community events. The cards have been created and will be distributed in coming weeks. GNOHA produced talking points on how proposed federal budget cuts could impact New Orleans’ housing programs, and posted in a social media campaign.

Emergency Preparedness Committee

In response to the Tornadoes that occurred in February, the Emergency Preparedness Committee identified available units for disaster housing and created a document enumerating these units that was shared



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with City officials. The Committee also created a recovery resource list. The newly named Housing FIRST Alliance (of the Capital Area) has been meeting and forming subcommittees.

The Collaborative

The Louisiana Homebuyer Education Collaborative (LHEC) is the name of the accreditation body. The Collaborative is the GNOHA committee of Homebuyer Education agencies. The Collaborative meets quarterly (March, June, September, and December) at the Neighborhood Development Foundation.

HousingNOLA February Initiatives

Louisiana Housing Trust Fund Initiative

The Louisiana Housing Trust Fund Initiative held a meeting in March to discuss and plan for the Housing Trust Fund to be introduced at the 2017 Legislative Session. The group discussed possible revenue sources, action items and the timeline.

Capacity Building

The Capacity Building Committee met in March to discuss the UNO PLUS Development Finance Certificate Program. Syllabi for the six courses were provided for review. The goal is to start the program later this spring and have GNOHA member organizations participate along with the individuals and organizations identified by The Network for Economic Opportunities. The Capacity Building Calendar is complete, and the search for more capacity building opportunities is ongoing.

Lenders Roundtable

The Lenders Roundtable met in March. Data was provided outlining the city's commitment for 7,500 units; it is projected that 10,952 units needed for <80% AMI renters. The Lenders Roundtable also discussed lender philanthropy, outreach and engagement and plans to host a finance summit later this year.

Nonprofit Roundtable

The Nonprofit Roundtable did not meet in March. William Stoudt (Director of Rebuilding Together New Orleans) will act as the tentative co-chair for the committee. The Nonprofit Roundtable will meet in April to discuss unmet needs.

Workforce Housing Council

The Workforce Housing Council last month to discuss next steps to developing a workforce housing strategy that includes a study of the connections between workforce housing and transportation opportunities in the Greater New Orleans region. The group have identified key partners and will begin to move forward with the strategy.

Assessor Working Group

The Assessor's Working Group met with the Assessor on March 16th, and made progress on many of their initiatives. The Assessor produced requested data on the Senior Tax Abatement and agreed to



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partner with GNOHA in senior outreach efforts to make more seniors aware of the program. The Assessor also agreed to look into every Road Home property for which a homestead exemption was requested and assess on an individual basis. The group also discussed issues of taxation around community land trusts.

Smart Housing Mix Tiger Team

The Smart Housing Mix Tiger Team is a group of housing and planning professionals in New Orleans that have been holding calls with HousingNOLA's consultant from Grounded Solutions Network, Sasha Hauswald. This team is tasked with determining the feasibility of implementing a mandatory Inclusionary Housing Policy in New Orleans. Out of numerous meetings and calls, a study was produced. This study has been submitted to the City Planning Commission and will be included in their Smart Housing Mix Ordinance Study.

The Smart Housing Mix Study was discussed at the City Council's Community Development Committee meeting this past week. Overall the committee meeting was successful and the Study was well received by the committee members. Work is being done to continue to push the study towards an ordinance and eventual implementation.

Insurance Task Force

The Insurance Task Force did not meet in March, however a meeting is scheduled for April. The Task Force will discuss the new information from LDI and next steps, including the creation of a questionnaire to distribute to potential homeowners to educate them on the appropriate questions to ask when shopping for homeowner and flood insurance.

Healthy Homes Initiative

The Healthy Homes Initiative has been collecting resources on mold and dampness treatment, and exploring statewide initiatives. The newly formed Housing FIRST Alliance will advocate for best practices in mold remediation in the Baton Rouge recovery process. The Mold/Dampness efforts have been stalled but staff will be meeting with Dr. Felicia Rabito to discuss how to restart efforts.

Leadership Board

The Leadership Board met the evening of March 27th at Sojourner Truth Neighborhood Center. The meeting focused on upcoming advocacy strategies surrounding the Smart Housing Mix, Rental Registry and Louisiana Housing Trust Fund.

Data Working Group

The Data Working Group met this month to discuss what action items it is responsible for in 2017 and to strategize on how to make progress on them. Updates are being worked on to supplement the data analysis conducted in the 2016 Annual Report Card. Furthermore, data is being compiled towards the release of the semi-annual data report. This report will provide information on unit production since the release of the Report Card.



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Community Engagement Working Group

HousingNOLA continues to work with partners towards cultivating community engagement partnerships. In March, the Community Engagement Working Group met to discuss the engagement calendar and strategize the working group's structure. A call for nominations for two Chairpersons were made, and working continues to identify interested individuals. HousingNOLA attended all of the NORA Community Engagement meetings this month, as well as the Central Circle neighborhood association general meeting. We participated in a panel discussion on data use, as part of the New Orleans Entrepreneur Week conference. Additionally, we organized and ran a session on affordable housing and the state of the city's housing with the Fund17 fellows. We have begun discussions to extend our current media outreach, including opinion pieces and television.

Policy Working Group

HousingNOLA successfully saw the passing of a Text Amendment to the Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance to incorporate recommendations provided in the Commission's Affordable Housing Impact Statement Study on the Master Plan Amendment process at City Council this month. Several HousingNOLA partners attended the meeting and spoke in favor of the amendments.

The first public hearing on the City's 2017-2021 Consolidated Plan and 2017 Action Plan will be took place on Wednesday, March 8th at the Mid-City Branch of the New Orleans Public Library from 5:30-7:30PM. As required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the City of New Orleans is preparing to submit a five-year Consolidated Plan (CP) and an Annual Action Plan (AAP) for the use of federal funds. The Consolidated Plan is the City's planning and application document for four (4) formula grants for Community Development and Affordable Housing: the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), the HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME), the Housing Opportunities for Persons Living with HIV/AIDS, and the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Programs. The Consolidated Plan details how these federal funds will be used to address priority needs identified through public input and engagement. HousingNOLA distributed talking points for this meeting, submitted comments to the City and made the City's process and informational materials available to our partners.