



April Standing Committee & Initiative Reports

Public Policy Committee

In April, the Policy Committee had a presentation on the RTA's Strategic Transit Planning Process by RIDE New Orleans, and discussed Equitable Transit Oriented Development (eTOD) in relation to the RTA's Plan. As the RTA's Plan is still in development, RIDE and the Policy Committee agreed to partner in their advocacy efforts to ensure community and affordable housing priorities are included in the Plan. The Committee also discussed Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance Article 23 (Stormwater Management) and agreed to monitor the process to ensure that design doesn't hinder allowable development and vice versa. Finally, the possible legislative and political hurdles around disposition of school district properties was deliberated on.

Homeownership Committee

The Homeownership Committee did not meet in April. In an attempt to revive The Third Line 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 Third Line is an initiative to partner with lenders to create a mortgage product designed to help nontraditional workers (musicians, service workers, and culture bearers) achieve homeownership and key to GNOHA's Own the Crescent campaign. 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 LHC released a draft QAP on March 15th, and the Rental Committee collaborated to produce comments, which were submitted to the LHC on April 5th. Members of the Committee attended and spoke at LHC's Board meeting on April 12th, 2017. Though members' comments resulted in the removal of a 10 point rural project bonus in the final QAP, there are still outstanding issues that the committee finds with the current QAP. The committee continues to advocate to make the process and scoring system more favorable for New Orleans. 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 Smart Housing Mix Ordinance, federal budget cuts, Louisiana Housing Corporation, rental registry, and the City's 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. This month, subcommittees within the Put Housing First team were formed to plan and organize canvassing efforts, political questionnaires and candidate forums, and network development. Pledge cards were printed and have been distributed to GNOHA members and presented at many community events this month, and GNOHA has created a database of pledgers (currently at approx. 180).



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In conjunction with Put Housing First, GNOHA has been advocating around many bills at the current legislative session. To kick off the legislative session, GNOHA held a Put Housing First crawfish boil in Baton Rouge to raise awareness for housing-related bills, which was well attended by statewide partners. A bill tracker was produced and distributed to partners, as well as opposition materials to SB 162. The campaign will continue to meet with legislators and advocate for/against pertinent bills throughout the session.

Emergency Preparedness Committee

The Housing FIRST Alliance (of the Capital Area) has been meeting and forming subcommittees to address Baton Rouge disaster recovery.

The Collaborative

The Collaborative met on April 18th 2017 at Neighborhood Development Foundation. The Collaborative will prepare for the next round of applications for the Certified Agency list. Other topics that were discussed at the meeting include our Put Housing First campaign, the creation of a Curriculum Working Group to start the standardization process of renter education (Policy 3.2), and the future of HUD Counseling certification.

HousingNOLA Initiatives

Louisiana Housing Trust Fund Initiative

The Louisiana Housing Trust Fund Initiative held a meeting in April 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. We are continuing to research ways of securing a dedicated revenue source to the Trust Fund.

Capacity Building

The Capacity Building Committee did not meet in April, but work for the UNO PLUS Development Finance Certificate Program is still underway. 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 held a conference call at the end of the month. Data was provided outlining the city's commitment for 7,500 units; it is projected that 10,952 units needed for <80% AMI renters. A meeting will take place in May to discuss the structure and presentation of the data. The Lenders Roundtable also discussed lender philanthropy, outreach and engagement and plans to host a finance summit later this year.



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Nonprofit Roundtable

The Nonprofit Roundtable met in April. At the meeting, St. Bernard Project's survey was discussed, addressing the concerns of other nonprofit members. The goal for SBP was to receive fifty responses from participants who did not receive their assistance in rebuilding their home post-flooding. The Nonprofit Roundtable will meet in May 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

At last month's meeting, the Assessor agreed to look into every Road Home property for which a homestead exemption was requested and assess on an individual basis. GNOHA has been following up with the Assessor on this matter.

Smart Housing Mix Tiger Team

The Smart Housing Mix Study faced a challenge at the state legislature. Senator Appel introduced SB 162 which intends to prevent inclusionary zoning from being implemented in the state of Louisiana. The bill passed the Senate Committee with a vote of 3-4. It will next be heard at the House Committee. We will continue to work to mobilize advocates around stopping this bill.

Insurance Task Force

The Insurance Task Force did not meet in April, however there will be a meeting in May scheduled. The Task Force will discuss the new information from LDI and next steps, including the edit 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 met in April with Dr. Felicia Rabito, a leading researcher on home-harbored risks and the connection between home health and pulmonary health. Dr. Rabito reported to the group on her research and discussed messaging and research strategies for the group's work moving forward. She also recommended new studies and resources for the group to research.

Leadership Board

The Leadership Board did not meet this month. The next meeting will take place on May 30th from 12-2PM. At the meeting we will discuss the semi-annual data updates on the state of housing in New Orleans. Additionally, we will hear from Dr. Rashida Govan about her research for the Data Center's New Orleans Youth Index.



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Data Working Group

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, which will be made shortly available, will provide information on unit production since the release of the Report Card. HousingNOLA also began working with the AARP Taskforce to form the Special Needs Committee focused on Age-Friendly housing policy. We will be holding a meeting in May for the Special Needs Committee focusing on Youth.

Community Engagement Working Group

HousingNOLA continues to work with partners towards cultivating community engagement partnerships. Following the last Community Engagement Working, a call for nominations for two Chairpersons was made, and work continues to identify interested individuals. HousingNOLA attended the Central Circle neighborhood association general meeting and the Bayou Road Bike Festival. We have begun discussions to extend our current media outreach, including opinion pieces and television. Work has begun to develop four Neighborhood Strategic Plans in collaboration with New Orleans' residents. These strategic plans will help give residents a voice in the future of their community, and empower them to work in partnership with city government for the betterment of their neighborhood.

Policy Working Group

HousingNOLA signed on to Committee for a Better New Orleans' letter to the City Council requesting they hold at least one public hearing on the Master Plan in each City Council district. We also participated in the development of CBNO's Community Guide to the Master Plan Amendments. The guide can be found online on the CBO website, here: <http://www.cbno.org/site/wp-content/uploads/Master-Plan-2016-Amendments-Synopsis.pdf>