



June Standing Committee & Initiative Reports

Public Policy Committee

In June, the Policy Committee received updates on its Healthy Homes (Mold/Dampness), Equitable Transit Oriented Development (eTOD), and Stormwater Management Model initiatives, as well as an overview of the 2017 Legislative Session. Primarily, recommendations for the Housing Authority of New Orleans' Reorganization and Agency Plans were discussed. These recommendations included: Deconcentration of Housing Choice Vouchers, Mobility Strategies, Language Accessibility, Police Officer Occupancy, Energy Efficient Utility Allowance, Inspections, and Terminations/Grievances. A letter detailing the Committee's suggestions was submitted to HANO a week later. Finally, the Committee discussed the upcoming 2018 City Budget, and in particular the Neighborhood Housing Improvement Funding for the 2018 fiscal year.

Homeownership Committee

The Homeownership Committee met in June to discuss the Finance Authority of New Orleans' new "one-stop shop" homeownership mortgage packages, Own New Orleans, as well as the next steps in Shared Solutions for member organizations. Own New Orleans offers two affordable loan and grant options for potential homebuyers in order to promote homeownership in the city. The committee will also begin setting up the framework of the shared solutions model; the primary uses of the shared solutions are for financial needs (bookkeeping, development finance, etc.), construction management, IT, software purchases, and client management services. A small grant from the Greater New Orleans Foundation was awarded to help with the implementation of the share solutions framework.

Rental Committee

The Energy Efficiency for All Coalition has been meeting regularly and advancing a study around the energy efficiency of rental buildings in New Orleans, which is nearly complete in its data-gathering stage and will soon be formulated into report-form. Members of EEFA and the Rental Committee also met with HANO staff to discuss the adoption of an energy efficient utility allowance. HANO is receptive to the idea and we expect to make more progress in coming months. Members of the Rental Committee have also been in talks on how best to encourage HANO to implement a small area market rent program that would enable voucher holders to secure housing in high-opportunity areas if they so choose. The Committee hopes to make progress on this matter in the coming month, and connect HANO with neighborhood associations to recruit potential landlords.

Outreach and Advocacy Committee

Advocacy efforts in June have included the legislative session and upcoming fall local elections. The Put Housing First campaign was actively engaged in the legislative session that ended in early June, and continues to prepare for the fall local elections. The Canvassing Subcommittee has been planning large



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scale canvassing efforts for the pledge card campaign, and has partnered with VOTE to carry out canvassing throughout the summer. The Political Platform Subcommittee has been securing participation in upcoming candidate forums and preparing questions, and is preparing to release the full platform at a July 29th Put Housing First Rally. Put Housing First has secured national partnerships with the National Low Income Housing Coalition's Our Homes, Our Voices campaign, as well as Homes for All.

Emergency Preparedness Committee

The Emergency Preparedness Committee met this month and discussed re-starting the conversation around implementation of a disaster housing pipeline in Louisiana. The Committee plans to begin writing letters to representatives from national agencies to gain their support. The Committee also discussed engaging in advocacy around the Coastal Master Plan.

The Collaborative

The Collaborative decided in the last meeting to establish a financial fitness curriculum working group. The Curriculum Working group met in June to establish the first draft of the standardized curriculum for financial fitness. The goal of having a standardized curriculum is to provide education to renters and future homebuyers, to help improve client credit, and encourage financial habits that help clients save. The first draft of the curriculum will be reviewed and voted on at the next Collaborative meeting in July.

HousingNOLA Initiatives

Overview

HousingNOLA hosted a delegation from the Detroit's People Movement who visited New Orleans to study the HousingNOLA process and met with representatives from the Executive Committee, Leadership Board and all three Working Groups (Policy, Data and Community Engagement).

Capacity Building

The Capacity Building Committee did not meet in June 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 once the CEA has been approved and executed between UNO and the City of New Orleans. An update will be provided once a confirmation from the City Attorney is received. GNOHA member organizations will be eligible 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.



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Louisiana Housing Trust Fund Initiative

With the end of the Legislative Session, the Louisiana Housing Trust Fund Initiative Steering Committee will now meet once a month to explore alternative funding sources that could still be secured by the end of 2017.

Lenders Roundtable

The Lenders Roundtable held a meeting in June to discuss the structure and presentation of the data compiled to project the housing development funding gap over the next five years. 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 the investment opportunities for projects that currently have some public investment, but still lack the private capital necessary to complete the units. The Lenders Roundtable plans to host a finance summit later this year.

Nonprofit Roundtable

The Nonprofit Roundtable met in June to discuss the Nonprofit Rebuild Pilot Program (NRPP), the Referral system, and the Road Home Program. The Roundtable will be sending a letter to the LHC outlining challenges with the program, what changes can be implemented to improve the program, and what changes can be implemented to help the people whose homes were affected. The Roundtable also discussed a Shared Solution that tracks client contact, and will help clients in finding the right resource for their needs.

Workforce Housing Council

The Workforce Housing Council will meet in July 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.

Smart Housing Mix Tiger Team

The Smart Housing Mix Tiger Team will be meeting in July to discuss next as HousingNOLA is continuing to work with the CPC, Mayor's Office and City Council to move towards developing and implementing the Smart Housing Mix Ordinance.

Assessor Working Group

The Assessor's Working Group continues to reach out to the Assessor urging a response on issues discussed at May's meeting.



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Insurance Task Force

The Insurance Task Force met in June 2017. The Task Force discussed the reauthorization of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), and the potentially damaging affects it could have on the affordability of homeownership, especially in high-flood risk areas. A Call to Action was issued urging voters to contact their legislators about the reauthorization, outlining this national issue. The Task Force also touched upon a survey that is being created for homeowners and developers, in the hopes that these survey results will give a foundation for policy recommendations that can be brought to the commissioner.

Healthy Homes Initiative

The group has secured a new national partner in the Green and Healthy Homes Initiative, who the group had a call with in early June. GHHI is very eager to engage around our local work on mold/dampness, and is currently working on preparing a localized plan for next steps and potential local funding sources to help move the Healthy Homes Initiative's work forward in the coming year.