



April Standing Committee Reports & Initiatives

Outreach and Advocacy Committee

The Outreach and Advocacy committee now has over 15 active members who will be working with GNOHA to advocate on behalf of our HousingNOLA goals. GNOHA created talking points around SB 374, HB 610, and SB 288 and the Outreach and Advocacy Committee members will work within their own networks and organizations to advocate around these issues. The committee is also developing a strategy around supporting HUD's recent "banning the box" legislation. GNOHA will partner with organizations like Voices of Ex-offenders and Blights Out to mobilize grass roots campaigns in support of banning the box. The committee will also write letters and make phone calls to our legislatures around the issue. On April 27, GNOHA attend Lobby Day at the State Capital, and is currently implementing a new social media strategy to increase online engagement and outreach.

Emergency Preparedness Committee

Hurricane Season begins in one month and GNOHA is working towards getting our members, and GNOHA, ready in case of a disaster. GNOHA attended a Continuity of Operations Plan training in the first week of April and met a number of people involved in Emergency Preparedness. As a result, Evacuteer and the Disaster and Resiliency Interns will conduct a Continuity of Operation Plan (COOP) and Evacuteer training for GNOHA members on May 9th. The committee also connected with Good360 and Disaster Recovery 360, an organization that helps leverage donations after an emergency. The committee now has representation on an Evacuteer and FEMA Working Group, making it possible for us to relay important information and events to GNOHA members.

Rental Committee

The Rental Committee met with the Housing Authority of New Orleans in the first week of May to discuss Utility Allowances, and will be moving forward with that partnership to obtain necessary utility data. GNOHA was present at an April 28th conference concerning the Clean Power Plan (CPP) along with fellow Energy Efficiency for All (EEFA) members the National Resources Defense Council, The Alliance for Affordable Energy, and Green Coast Enterprises. The EEFA subcommittee gained a lot of valuable data from national presenters at this conference, and is planning on becoming very involved with Clean Power Plan in the months to come, as the first deadline for submission to the Environmental Protection Agency is August 2016. In May, the Rental Committee will meet with the National Resources Defense Council to discuss multi-family housing.

Public Policy Committee

The Public Policy Committee completed the Office of Community Development's Action Plan Questionnaire on behalf of GNOHA and submitted it. Letters were sent to the State Legislature regarding HB610 (Uniform Taxation for Affordable Housing Developments). The Policy Committee is pursuing advocacy against SB288 after hearing from Ashleigh Gardere (City of New Orleans) about the consequences of such legislation for special contracts that



aim to develop New Orleans workforce. GNOHA is also in full support of SB374 (Living Wage) and absolutely opposed to the anti-immigrant “Sanctuary City” Bills (HB151 and HB453).

For Mold/Dampness, we are making slow but sure progress. Staff is in contact with the people behind successful advocacy and legislation in Dallas and San Francisco. For Short Term Rental, staff has developed a “letter to the editor” that outlines GNOHA’s position for various planning magazines. For the HUD Rule on over-income residents in public housing, the committee reached out to Cheryl Breaux at HUD to determine the deadlines for comment and/or the status of the rule. In the assessor’s working group, the idea is to work up a letter to Errol Williams as we move forward with the inception of the group. HousingNOLA/ GNOHA Policy also had a victory around the revision of the Neighborhood Participation Program. Finally, the committee is keeping a watchful eye on events at the Louisiana Housing Corporation.

Insurance Sub-Committee

The Insurance Sub-Committee did not have a meeting this month, however FEMA announced its new updated flood maps so that will help us as we gather research on what initiatives are helping to lower flood and homeowners insurance rates. Co-chairs Ashley Aubrey Harrison and Lydia Jackson met with Andreanecia Morris to discuss upcoming initiatives for the insurance sub-committee, including drafting a follow-up letter to the insurance commissioner to propose a pilot program that would address homeowner insurance for property owners of “double” type houses.

Homeownership Committee

In April the committee put together a First-time Homeownership panel for the State Housing & Homelessness Conference in Baton Rouge. The committee is also preparing for Homeownership Month by planning a special event for June.

Own the Crescent

The OTC is preparing to restart its operations. We have a narrative explaining a shared solutions model to introduce it to members who would want to participate in the program. In the Homeownership Committee we also discussed preliminary partnership with ASI Credit Union for the Third Line initiative. We also began preliminary budgeting for a rollout event to herald the reintroduction of the Third Line.

Workforce Housing Group

At the beginning of the month, we spoke with a representative from NOMAR (New Orleans Metropolitan Association of Realtors) about their employer assisted housing program resources. They have documentation and procedures already prepared for such an initiative. We have also reviewed workforce housing recommendations from GNO, Inc.



Louisiana Homebuyer Education Collaborative

This month GNOHA submitted a grant on behalf of the LHEC to the Ben & Jerry's foundation for \$25,000 to fund the secret shopper program and LHEC activities. LHEC also solidified a plan of action and partnership with GNOFHAC, and budget for the secret shopper program. There was one phone call and one in person board meeting to discuss membership. Sending out a final reminder garnered dues from five of the six members. An updated membership list was sent out on May 2, due to member organizations being made inactive.

HousingNOLA: Capacity Building

Capacity building team created and sent out a capacity building assessment for homebuyer education organizations and CHDOS. The assessment will cover program management, financials, and long term operations plans. A review team has been assembled to evaluate the assessments in May, and will move forward from there.