



February Standing Committee & Initiative Reports

Public Policy Committee

In February, the Policy Committee refocused its efforts around HousingNOLA's 2017 Action Plan. HousingNOLA does the high-level policy/agenda making, while GNOHA is the boots on the ground. The Committee then pulled together and reviewed the 2017 HousingNOLA Policy Priorities, some of which include: Transit-oriented development, Healthy Homes, Rental Registry, Progressive Tax Reform, Disposition of Public Land, and others.

Homeownership Committee

The Homeownership committee promotes homeownership in New Orleans by advocating for policies and funding to assist low-to-moderate-income individuals and families with acquiring homes, by creating innovative strategies that facilitate homeownership, and by partnering with local agencies and businesses to combine and leverage resources for prospective homebuyers. The Homeownership Committee also influences the development of the Own the Crescent and Third Line Initiative, as well as exploring shared solutions to reduce costs and build capacity.

Rental Committee

The Healthy Homes ordinance has been deferred. The LHC held their final QAP workshop, and the Rental Committee is awaiting the release of the draft QAP on March 15th after which they will collaborate to submit written comments.

Outreach and Advocacy Committee

Current advocacy efforts include the rental registry, Smart Housing Mix Ordinance, HOME funds, and the Louisiana Housing Corporation. All eight of the Louisiana Statewide Housing Listening Tour events have been held and were well attended and resulting in robust discussion and articulation of regional and statewide housing goals. For each discussion, GNOHA sent a follow up survey to attendees to rank housing goals that were articulated at the meetings. GNOHA has received responses for all surveys and is currently compiling all regional goals into a master priority list.

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 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. The Collaborative did not meet in February. The next General Meeting will be in April, the date will be announced in March.



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Road Home Liaison Group

February 1, marked the start of the final month of the Road Home Liaison Group (RHLG) contract. RHLG spent the last month wrapping up cases and published a full report on its challenges and successes. RHLG offices stopped seeing clients Monday February 20th. RHLG has worked through 4,676 cases over the course of the two year contract. Of this, 4,520 keys are closed and considered completely worked through. RHLG has processed a total of \$41,098,897.70 in Variance Reductions. Separately, the archived files represent \$12,614,978.78 in Road Home funds.

HousingNOLA February Initiatives

Louisiana Housing Trust Fund Initiative

The Louisiana Housing Trust Fund Initiative held a meeting in February 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 did not meet in February; however a follow-up email was sent to Marla Nelson of University of New Orleans Department of Planning and Urban Studies (UNO PLUS) for an update on the UNO PLUS Development Finance Certificate Program. The goal is to start the program later this spring and have GNOHA member organizations participate along with the individuals and organizations identified by Judith and Asali. The Calendar is complete, and the search for more capacity building opportunities is ongoing.

Lenders Roundtable

The Lenders Roundtable will have a meeting in March 2017. The Lenders Roundtable also discussed lender philanthropy, outreach and engagement and plans to host a finance summit later this year.

Nonprofit Roundtable

The next meeting for the Nonprofit Roundtable will take place in mid-March. The agenda for the next meeting includes: Case Presentations, an update on previously transferred cases, and the Referral System.

Workforce Housing Council

The Workforce Housing Council met February 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 group received initial responses from the Assessor regarding both requested homestead exemptions for Road Home clients some of the data requested from Assessor on Senior Tax Abatement and is continuing conversation with the Assessor on this topics.



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Inclusionary Housing 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 CPC held a public hearing on February 21st on the Smart Housing Mix Ordinance Study. HousingNOLA worked to organize partners to speak at the hearing. Overall the hearing was successful and the Study was unanimously accepted by the Commission with the requirement that further research be conducted on raising the affordable unit percentage set aside requirement.

Insurance Task Force

The Insurance Task Force met in February, and went over the follow-up information from the Louisiana Department of Insurance (LDI) regarding estimates of the average cost of flood insurance in Louisiana and liability insurance rates. The task force plans to meet in March to 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.

Leadership Board

The Leadership Board continued to work on the Master Plan amendment process. The public hearing on amendments to the text of the Master Plan, not including to the Future Land Use Map category descriptions, took place on Tuesday, February 7 at 3pm in the City Council Chamber, City Hall. HousingNOLA partners spoke at the hearing in favor of the comments. All the modified amendments were passed by the City Planning Commission.

The next Leadership Board meeting will take place in March. This meeting will be focused on the upcoming advocacy strategies. Details on the time and date will be announced shortly

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 quarterly review on April 1st. This review 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 February, HousingNOLA participated in two neighborhood association general meetings. Firstly, we presented to the Mid-City Neighborhood Organization on February 13th. Next, we presented to the Eastern New Orleans Neighborhood Advisory Commission on February 14th. Moreover, HousingNOLA spoke with media outlets, including newspaper and magazine reporters. The Community Engagement Working Group will be meeting in March to discuss how to best structure the committee and to put together a calendar of community engagement opportunities.

Policy Working Group

HousingNOLA successfully worked on the Master Plan Amendment process this month. Several HousingNOLA partners attended the meeting and spoke in favor of the amendments. The amendments were accepted by CPC with modified approval.

The first public hearing on the City's 2017-2021 Consolidated Plan and 2017 Action Plan will be taking 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.

A public hearing on a Text Amendment to the Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance to incorporate recommendations provided in the Commission's Affordable Housing Impact Statement Study will be taking place at the City Council Meeting on Thursday, March 9th.