



January Standing Committee & Initiative Reports

Public Policy Committee

In January, this Committee discussed policy strategies to assist some of GNOHA's ongoing initiatives and priorities: Healthy Homes, Rental Registry, Smart Housing Mix and the Low Income Housing Tax Credit's Qualified Allocation Plan (QAP). A Text Amendment to the Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance to incorporate recommendations provided in the CPC's Affordable Housing Impact Statement Study was passed at the CPC meeting on Tuesday, January 10 at 1:30pm at City Council Chamber, City Hall. The AHIS will serve to inform, educate, and ensure that government process and action do not undermine the goal of the supply and affordability of housing. GNOHA has also teamed up with the Louisiana Housing Alliance (LHA) for its annual statewide Listening Tour, which will result in a statewide housing policy agenda for the 2017 Legislative Session. The statewide policy agenda will be utilized by this Committee to help direct its efforts over the next year. Finally, this Committee reviewed and celebrated GNOHA's 2016 Policy Victories, which can be found at http://gnoha.org/main/monthly_reports

Homeownership Committee

The Homeownership Committee did not meet in January, but has a meeting scheduled for February 6th with Trina Henderson at the St. John the Baptist Housing Authority and a general committee meeting scheduled for March 6th to discuss strategies and next steps for Own the Crescent and The Third Line.

Rental Committee

The City introduced a draft Healthy Homes Ordinance, which would mandate inspections and safety standards for all rental properties, and discussed the ordinance at the January Community Development Committee Meeting. There was a strong community turnout in support of the ordinance, and the Council voted unanimously to bring the ordinance to the full council meeting. The Rental Committee submitted comments to the Council. The matter was deferred at the January 26th meeting and at the February 9th meeting, and will be heard at the February 23rd meeting. The LHC held their second QAP workshop, where Rental Committee members gave input on designing a process for the next QAP.

Outreach and Advocacy Committee

Current advocacy efforts include the rental registry, Smart Housing Mix Ordinance, HOME funds, and the Louisiana Housing Corporation. Six legs of the LHA listening tour have been held; in New Orleans, Alexandria, Baton Rouge, and now in Lake Charles, Shreveport, and Monroe, all of which have been well attended and resulting in robust discussion and articulation of regional housing goals. For each discussion, GNOHA sent a follow up survey to attendees to rank housing goals that were articulated at the meetings. The remaining two regional discussions will be taking place in the coming month, and GNOHA is reaching out to community leaders across the state to attend. Members of the Outreach & Advocacy Committee attended the Community Development Committee hearing to speak in favor of the Healthy Homes Ordinance.

Emergency Preparedness Committee

The newly named Housing FIRST Alliance (of the Capital Area) has been meeting and forming subcommittees.

The Collaborative

The 2017-2018 list of certified agencies was distributed to GNOHA members and published on the GNOHA website on January 3rd at noon. The Collaborative held its first meeting of the year on January 20th at the Neighborhood Development Foundation. The meeting discussed the 2017-2018 list and the application, secret shopper and certification processes. The Collaborative agreed to develop a subcommittee to create a financial fitness curriculum that would be standardized across all the certified agencies that offer the course. The Collaborative also discussed capacity building opportunities, the identification of additional revenue sources and investment and advocacy strategies through a roundtable discussion with banks around the city.

Road Home Liaison Group

February 1, marks the start of the final month of the Road Home Liaison Group (RHLG) contract. RHLG will spend the last month wrapping up cases and will publish a full report on its challenges and successes. RHLG offices will stop seeing clients Monday February 20th. In the meantime, the team continues to work through cases and advocate for results.

As of January 31, 2017 the GNOHA RHLG has a fully worked through 4272 files. The team has relieved 528 applicants of their debt to the Road Home Program through compliance or establishing occupancy (+45 from last month). An additional 133 files have been archived due to the death of the grant recipient (+7 from last report). RHLG is proud to report that a total of 35.5 million dollars has been applied to Road Home recipients' cases to date (+2.5 million dollars from last report). Of this \$1,363,131.05 (+126,560.00 from last report), has been closed on for construction. 19 homes have been funded for construction as the result of RHLG work (+2 from last month), 12 (+0 from last report) of which have been completed.

HousingNOLA January Initiatives

Louisiana Housing Trust Fund Initiative

The Louisiana Housing Trust Fund Initiative held a meeting in January 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 January; however a call took place between the University of New Orleans Department of Urban Studies and Planning (UNO PLUS) and the City's The Network for Economic Opportunity to discuss the UNO PLUS Development Finance Certificate Program and how The Network could help find another location and attract more participants. The Network has agreed to fund the UNO PLUS program and to extend the opportunity to community members as well as nonprofits. The course is expected to be launched this spring. The search for more capacity building opportunities is ongoing.

Lenders Roundtable

The Lenders Roundtable held a strategy session on January 23rd to discuss the investment needs of renters, property owners and developers, homeowners, and homebuyers, and best ways to address

these needs. 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 met on January 31st, 2017. The Road Home Liaison Group listed clients not yet in contract with builders, and the convening nonprofits divided the clients between them to approach as potential rebuilding management.

Workforce Housing Council

The Workforce Housing Council will next be meeting in 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.

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 timeline for the CPC's study has changed. There is now an extension to February 24th for the CPC to complete the study. Written comments will be accepted up to 5pm on Monday, February 13th. Comments can be emailed to cpcinfo@nola.gov or mailed to:

*City of New Orleans
City Planning Commission
1300 Perdido Street, 7th Floor
New Orleans, LA 70112*

Assessor Working Group

The group received initial responses from the Assessor regarding both requested homestead exemptions for Road Home clients as well as the data request for Assessor's senior citizen tax freeze initiative and is continuing conversation with the Assessor on this topics.

Insurance Task Force

The Insurance Task Force did not meet in January, but did receive 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 both included in the homeowner insurance premium and those available as a la carte options. The task force plans to meet in early February 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 met this month on January 30th to strategize for the 2017 Action Plan. The meeting was well attended and resulted in several edits to the Action Plan, including organizational commitments and clarifications. A timeline for the Action Plan was discussed and agreed upon.

Data Working Group

Updates are being worked to supplement the data analysis conducted in the 2016 Annual Report Card. Furthermore, data is being compiled towards the release of the quarterly review detailing unit production. The Data Working Group will meet in February to discuss the 2017 Action Plan items it is responsible for.

Community Engagement Working Group

HousingNOLA continues to work with partners towards cultivating community engagement partnerships. In January, HousingNOLA participated in a community roundtable discussion on transportation equity led by the City of New Orleans. Moreover, HousingNOLA spoke with media outlets, including newspaper and magazine reporters.

Policy Working Group

In January, HousingNOLA continued to work on the Master Plan Amendment process. The public hearing on amendments to the Future Land Use Map and the text of the Future Land Use Map category descriptions took place on Tuesday, January 24th at 3pm in the City Council Chamber, City Hall. Several HousingNOLA partners attended the meeting and spoke in favor of the amendments. The amendments were passed with modified approval by the City Planning Commission. The public hearing on amendments to the text of the Master Plan, not including to the Future Land Use Map category descriptions, was moved and will now take place on Tuesday, February 7 at 3pm in the City Council Chamber, City Hall. HousingNOLA is working to organize partners around speaking in favor of the comments.