



June Standing Committee & Initiative Reports

Homeownership Committee

The GNOHA monthly meeting featured a panel to discuss various aspects of homeownership in the Greater New Orleans area, from news and partner updates to discussions on less common facets of the industry. On June 23, GNOHA hosted a special homeownership event to commemorate June as Homeownership Month. There were classes, face painting, games, and of course tabling from our many members and partners.

Own the Crescent

The OTC is preparing to restart its operations. There is a narrative explaining a shared solutions model to introduce it to members who would want to participate in the program. The OTC is also recruiting prospects to drive the Third Line initiative.

Rental Committee

GNOHA read comments into the record at the June 15th IRP hearing at City Hall to protest the construction of a natural gas plant in the East. The deadline for Intervenor comments to the IRP have been extended, and GNOHA will be submitting comments along with the Energy Efficiency for All Committee. Further, the Rental Committee will be meeting on Tuesday, July 12th.

Outreach and Advocacy Committee

The Outreach and Advocacy Committee teamed up with the Homeownership and OTC committees to host our first Own the Crescent Fair and GNOHA members showed up in force. Outreach and advocacy successfully advocated around SB 610, SB 288, HB151 and HB 453. Tulane's Center for Public Service will be assisting GNOHA in the creation of a Story Bank for June and July. GNOHA staff has also been actively collecting pictures of houses for the photo bank and the organization brochure is ready for printing.

Public Policy Committee

There have been concerns that Louisiana Housing Corporation is shifting focus to rural housing. GNOHA submitted comments to the LHC about this concern in a letter regarding Louisiana Housing Trust Fund dollars. There will be a second round of Housing Trust Fund comments later in July, and GNOHA plans to submit comments again at that time.

GNOHA submitted a letter to the State Office of Community Development highlighting its concern over the focus on rural funding in submitted comments on the State Consolidated Annual Action Plan for FY 17. Specifically, GNOHA requested that Community Development Block Grant funds be directed to rural housing once again (This practice was discontinued in 2011). This way, other funding sources like HOME and Housing Trust Fund dollars can be freed up for much needed affordable housing in urban areas.



GNOHA submitted comments to HANO regarding PBV allocations, scatter site development, City of New Orleans' Integrated Housing Plan, and HousingNOLA.

GNOHA will be speaking and submitting comments in July regarding the City Planning Commission's recommendations for an Affordable Housing Impact Statement. This tool, if implemented, will be a useful mechanism for collecting much needed affordable housing data.

GNOHA released a white paper highlighting its position on the hotly contested Short Term Rental issue. We reiterated our stance that owner occupied short term rental, if managed correctly could actually be an economic boon to homeowners. That said, whole house is a serious threat the affordability crisis this city is currently facing. Taking entire apartment complexes offline for the chance to earn quick cash isn't something this city needs. We need more supply--for the folks who live here and diverse economic opportunities (like owner occupied short term rental) to make New Orleans sustainable.

GNOHA is in talks with Southface Energy Institute about our Dampness initiatives. The Policy committee will be in talks with the Homebuilders Association Advanced Building Practices committee in August to review the best way to approach dampness in New Orleans homes.

A Request for Proposals was issued for operating a Rental Registry in the City. GNOHA is in the process of determining whether this is the best way to approach the initiative. While GNOHA supports a Rental Registry on the grounds that it would improve rental conditions, the HousingNOLA plan stipulates that any such program must be well-planned and given proper oversight.

Finally, for the Mayor's District Budget Hearings, staff developed talking points for housing advocates that ensured housing would be a top discussion topic at meetings in every district.

Insurance Sub-Committee

Insurance sub-committee did not have a meeting this month, but several members of the committee did have an in-person meeting with Insurance Commissioner Donelon, to discuss upcoming initiatives including a proposed pilot program that would address homeowner insurance for property owners of duplexes, triplexes and fourplexes. The result of the meeting was that the Insurance Commissioner and committee members would gather more data and reconvene.

Assessor's Working Group

GNOHA staff met with Tax Assessor Errol Williams and his staff to discuss initiatives and advocacy work to help homeowners and nonprofits with increasing or changing property taxes.



Emergency Preparedness Committee

The Emergency Preparedness Committee met this month to create GNOHA's emergency preparedness plan. Based on the committee's experience in previous disasters, the committee determined that the best course of action is to compile a list of all available units and the restrictive funding attached to the property. If a disaster occurs, we will have a list of the properties and we will be able to request waivers for the properties. This process will make it easier for GNOHA members to house disaster affected individuals. Additionally, an emergency preparedness committee member created a trial Good360 account and determined that the simple process could be beneficial in the aftermath of an emergency.

Louisiana Homebuyer Education Collaborative

The LHEC held their second quarterly meeting of the year on June 23rd. At this meeting, the membership voted to officially move the Collaborative under GNOHA as a standing committee. The homebuyer certification process will also become an official GNOHA program. Immediately following the quarterly meeting, there was a free fair housing training—this training is a requirement for all homebuyer agencies certified through the LHEC. The National Community Reinvestments Collaborative is hosting trainings planned July to provide additional required training for homebuyer counseling agencies.

Road Home Liaison Group:

As of July 11, 2016 the Road Home Liaison Group (RHLG) has relieved 236 (+36 from last month) applicants of their debt to the Road Home Program through compliance or establishing occupancy. An additional 71 (+5 from last report) files have been archived due to the death of the grant recipient. A total of 16.3 million dollars has been applied to Road Home recipients' cases. Of this \$558,087.03, has been closed on for construction. 11 homes have been funded for construction, 1 of which is completed. Several projects remain in the pipeline for closing. The RHLG reconvened the Non-Profit Roundtable in the month of June. At this time, 5 new cases were presented to the non-profit partners.

HousingNOLA

HousingNOLA is now a separate 501 c(3) and a GNOHA partner/affiliate. The board of directors for appointed Andreanecia M. Morris as its Executive Director effective Monday, June 20, 2016.

Mayor Landrieu announced plans to adopt a policy to require more affordable units in market-rate multifamily developments, add or preserve 4,000 housing units, develop a strategy for leveraging property owned by the city's housing authority and the New Orleans Redevelopment Authority for new housing and launching a city rental registry program. At the City Council's request, the City Planning Commission is studying ways to include affordable housing as part of land-use and building applications. Mayor Landrieu also said the city will "completely redesign" incentives to entice developers to embrace the new planning standards and add affordable units.



Inclusionary Zoning Study

The Inclusionary Housing Tiger Team has met with Grounded Solutions to review their progress on the study.

Capacity Building

Capacity building team created and sent out a capacity building assessment for homebuyer education organizations and CHDOS. The assessment covers program management, financials, and long term operations plans. A review team assembled to evaluate the assessments, and determined more information was needed from many organizations. Follow-up letters were sent, and additional information was received. The review team met once more to evaluate this additional information. In June, the review team convened to create next steps and discuss available trainings and resources. A training calendar will soon be made available for organizations selected to participate.

Workforce Housing Study

The Workforce Housing Study Group met to discuss Lafourche Parish's workforce housing study, and also to plan how the New Orleans Business Alliance and Greater New Orleans, Inc. can help GNOHA to undertake a similar study in the greater New Orleans area.