



August Standing Committee & Initiative Reports

Public Policy Committee

The Public Policy Committee is monitoring several ongoing issues and working with Outreach and Advocacy to develop a Policy Platform to present to federal and state officials. It's also crafting talking points around density bonus alteration for the September 22nd City Council meeting. Also, GNOHA's Short-Term Rental White Paper will be updated for the next meeting City Council meeting on October 6th. This Committee is also researching best practices for dealing with mold and dampness. The Unmet Needs Subcommittee is drafting a letter to send to Assessor Errol Williams in the hopes of securing assistance for a handful of Katrina victims who are attempting to rebuild.

Homeownership Committee

In August the Homeownership Committee contributed to a statement outlining the problems and concerns raised by the density bonus alteration by researching available properties in Mid City and developing real world profiles of prospective buyers.

Own the Crescent

The OTC is continuing to drive the Third Line initiative, despite some setbacks from lender partners. The OTC is interviewing local musicians and performers who want to buy a home in New Orleans and creating material that will showcase the value of these culture bearers, as well as their need.

Rental Committee

The Rental Committee is coordinating with national advocates on how to pursue the Utility Allowance initiative. The Rental Committee is in talks about the timeline around the Louisiana Housing Corporation's next Qualified Action Plan (QAP) and what that means for GNOHA's developer partners and the production of affordable housing. The Rental Committee is also preparing comments on HANO's draft Project Based Vouchers (PBV) Site-Based Waiting List Monitoring Procedures.

Outreach and Advocacy Committee

Outreach and Advocacy committee successfully advocated at the August City Planning Commission meeting for the adoption of the Affordable Housing Impact Statement (AHIS). Outreach and Advocacy is preparing for campaigns around Voter Registration and final adoption of the AHIS by the City Council. The Outreach and Advocacy Committee is also developing a story bank to document member accomplishments.



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Emergency Preparedness Committee

The Emergency Preparedness Committee sent out the Disaster Housing Pipeline in an attempt to compile a list of all available units and the restrictive funding attached to the property in response to the flooding in Baton Rouge. Additionally, the committee reached out to the Louisiana State Disaster Recovery Unit about removing restrictive funding so that available properties will be available to people displaced by the flooding—the state has requested a waiver from HUD to allow non-profits to offer vacant units funded by federal funds as temporary shelter.

The Collaborative

Each year, HUD-certified homebuyer counseling agencies may apply to become certified by the Collaborative. New members must submit a full application and materials, while returning members only need to resubmit updated materials/application. The 2016 application was released on August 16th and completed applications and materials are due by 2pm, September 30th.

Capacity Building

The capacity building program is the result of an extensive assessment sent out to community development corporations and community housing organizations, as well as housing counseling agencies. A training calendar will soon be made available for organizations selected to participate.

Road Home Liaison Group

As of August 31, 2016 the Road Home Liaison Group (RHLG) has relieved 323 (+87 from last month) applicants of their debt to the Road Home Program through compliance or establishing occupancy. An additional 84 (+5 from last report) files have been archived due to the death of the grant recipient. RHLG is proud to report that a total of 20.4 million dollars has been applied to Road Home recipients' cases to date. Of this \$822,663.55, has been closed on for construction. 13 homes have been funded for construction as the result of RHLG work (+2 from last month), 6 of which have been completed. Several projects remain in the pipeline for closing. The Non-Profit Roundtable continues to meet and has scheduled its next meeting for September 14th, 9:30 am at the GNOHA offices.

In September, RHLG is moving its Lower 9th Ward office to the Andrew P. Sanchez Center. In this new location, case managers from Lower 9th Ward NENA and Lower 9th Ward Homeowners Association will continue to serve grant recipients in a high traffic and visible location. RHLG will ramp up additional outreach efforts in the Lower 9th Ward in hopes to serve more clients through the end of the program.



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HousingNOLA August Initiatives

Workforce Housing Council

The Workforce Housing Partnership held a meeting to discuss how the New Orleans Business Alliance and Greater New Orleans, Inc. can help GNOHA to develop a workforce housing strategy which includes a study of the connections between workforce housing and transportation opportunities in the region. The study plan was revised and key partners working in transportation were identified and invited to join the partnership.

Inclusionary Housing Tiger Team

The Inclusionary Housing Tiger Team is tasked with determining the feasibility of implementing a mandatory Inclusionary Housing Policy in New Orleans. Grounded Solutions, our Inclusionary Zoning research partner, is currently reviewing data collected and analyzing the New Orleans market.

Assessor Working Group

For the Assessor's working group, Rental and Policy Committees will be working through a process with the Assessor for implementing the new tax valuation for multi-family properties. The Assessor came to the August GNOHA meeting, and GNOHA is in the process of clarifying the position.

Insurance Task Force

The insurance committee has met with Insurance Commissioner Jim Donelon, in an effort to obtain information on insurance rates. Commissioner Donelon's office is researching insurance options for rental properties and we are still awaiting the finalized numbers.

Healthy Homes Initiative

GNOHA hopes to work with the Homebuilders Association of Greater New Orleans (HBAGNO) in their Advanced Building Sciences (and hopefully, the Louisiana Toxic Mold Task Force) to determine a work plan that examines the most effective advocacy path involving community education/outreach, policy initiatives, and building code additions/revisions around mold. We have connected with local and regional experts to identify mold and dampness resources to support of GNOHA's efforts.