



September Standing Committee & Initiative Reports

Public Policy Committee

New zoning ordinances were recommended by the City Planning Commission on Short-Term Rentals. As a result, GNOHA updated its previous STR Statement in preparation for the City Council's vote. The City of New Orleans chose a company to operate the Rental Registry, and GNOHA is in the process of determining the best way to approach this 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. GNOHA also crafted talking points for its membership around the alteration of the City's Density Bonuses.

Homeownership Committee

The Homeownership Committee did not meet in September, but plans to meet in later October with Trina Henderson from St. John the Baptist Housing Authority to discuss homeownership options for Trina Henderson's Section 8 and rental clients.

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.

Nonprofit Roundtable

The Nonprofit Roundtable met in September to discuss current cases that are approaching closing and new cases needing to be distributed among the nonprofits. The Roundtable is discussing strategies to link referrals across non-profits.

Rental Committee

Members of the committee are currently in talks with advocates in California on how to successfully pursue the Utility Allowance initiative. They are looking into a process that would certify developers and then require developers to present their certification in order to receive an allowance. Regarding the Project Based Voucher Site Based Waiting List procedure, GNOHA has submitted their comments to HANO. The Louisiana Housing Corporation will not release a Qualified Allocation Plan this year, so the Rental Committee will advocate for two rounds next year, asking that the urban and rural funding pools be separated. Comments are open until November 1st 2016 for the Clean Energy Incentive Program, which would provide incentives for energy efficiency in multifamily buildings. The Alliance for Affordable Energy is currently drafting comments, which GNOHA members will have the opportunity to sign on to.

Outreach & Advocacy Committee

The Outreach & Advocacy Committee developed a strategy to approach political candidates regarding their commitment to HousingNOLA goals and will send out questionnaires to all candidates by the middle of October. GNOHA publicized voter drives surrounding Voter Registration Day on September 27th. Upcoming advocacy efforts include the Rental

Registry, Inclusionary Zoning, HOME funds, and the Louisiana Housing Corporation. GNOHA plans to put forward a motion on Inclusionary Zoning by the end of the month, to begin the City's process of drafting an ordinance. GNOHA and the Outreach & Advocacy Committee is also partnering with the LHA to do a listening tour around the state; an order of regions has been selected, and these events will be taking place in late October through early November.

Emergency Preparedness Committee

The Emergency Preparedness Committee formed a new subcommittee this month; the Volunteer Management Subcommittee. This group has been meeting to coordinate volunteer efforts between New Orleans groups and Baton Rouge groups; thus far only the Mid-City Redevelopment Corporation. This group is working on a strategy to determine cluster groups of houses to be gutted in order to ease volunteer efforts from New Orleans partners. The group is also working to procure database software that would aid in sharing of information amongst rebuilding groups in Baton Rouge. Rebuilding Together will also be providing crew leader training to Mid-City Redevelopment Corporation workers. The Emergency Preparedness Committee is also working to plan a summit in late October with Baton Rouge groups in which GNOHA members will offer expertise in creating a Baton Rouge-version of GNOHA.

The Collaborative

Applications for the Louisiana Homebuyer Education Collaborative Certification were submitted on Friday, September 30th. Each agency seeking certification submitted a full application and materials. The Collaborative certification lasts for two years. There was a total of ten applications received this year. The certification review team will meet and schedule one-on-one meetings with each agency that submitted an application in November to review their applications and address any questions from the applicant.

Capacity Building

In September, the 14 organizations that submitted assessments were divided among Jasmine and Tessa, who will serve as points-of-contact. The University of New Orleans Department of Urban Studies and Planning (UNO PLUS) launched a Community Development Finance Certificate Program in September. Organizations that received recommendations for project financing enrichment were contacted to enroll in this course. The Capacity Building committee met on October 5th at GNOHA and discussed the next steps in capacity building opportunities which included creating a calendar of upcoming capacity building opportunities for our members to take advantage of.

Road Home Liaison Group

As of September 28, 2016, RHLG has relieved 361 (+38 from last month) applicants of their debt to the Road Home Program through compliance or establishing occupancy. An additional 86 (+2 from last report) files have been archived due to the death of the grant recipient. RHLG is proud to report that a total of 23 million dollars (3+ million dollars from last report) 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 (+0 from last month), 6 of which have been completed. Several projects remain in the pipeline for closing. The Sanchez Center Office (the NOPD substation at 1616 Caffin Ave) is up and running! It is staffed by Julia McMahon of Lower 9th Ward Homeowners Association and Tyra Pellerin of Lower 9th Ward NENA. They are available 8-5 Monday- Friday. RHLG has plans to host several outreach events focused on the Lower 9th Ward in the weeks to come.

HousingNOLA Initiatives

Leadership Board

HousingNOLA successfully released its first Annual Report Card this month. The release event, which took place on Thursday, September 29th at Lawrence D Crocker College Prep was well attended. The event included a reception and panel discussion. The panel consisted of Jeffrey Hebert, Deputy Mayor and Chief Administrative Officer; Allison Plyer, Executive Director and Chief Demographer of The Data Center; Donna Johnigan, President and Chief Executive Officer of the B.W. Cooper Resident Management Corporation; Rev. Willie Calhoun, Lower 9th Ward Stakeholders Coalition; and Andreanecia Morris, Executive Director of HousingNOLA. It was moderated by Flozell Daniels, Jr., CEO and President of Foundation for Louisiana.

Policy Working Group

The policy analysis necessary for the 2016 Report Card was completed. This process included assessing the status of the 2016 policy agenda and updating the 2017 action plan. The 2016 Action Items were graded as 'success,' 'in progress,' or 'no progress.' Each of these labels corresponds to a score of 1, 0.5 and 0 respectively. The scores were tabulated and converted into an overall letter grade of 'B.' The status of each 2016 Action Items, as well as priorities identified through the community engagement process, informed the 2017 Action Items. The Community Review Team approved both the assessments for the 2016 Report Card and the items for the 2017 Action Plan.

Data Working Group

The Data Working Group successfully compiled the data needed for the 2016 Annual Report Card, which was released this month. The data analysis was completed by GCR. Inc. HousingNOLA identified several special needs populations in the *10 Year Strategy and Implementation Plan*. These groups have distinct needs when it comes to securing safe, decent and affordable housing and the Data Working Group determined that more information must be gathered to develop effective policies to address those needs. At Risk Youth will be the first group that meets in October to begin developing plans to identify those data sets.

Community Engagement Working Group

As planned, targeted outreach was conducted this month to engage residents prior to the release of the 2016 Annual Report Card. In September, HousingNOLA presented at 3 community meetings, spoke to reporters at The Advocate and WDSU, and conducted a successful social media campaign. Additionally, HousingNOLA released the 2016 Annual Report Card with an open reception and panel discussion, which is detailed in the 'Leadership Board' section. Continued community engagement is being planned surrounding the upcoming Neighborhood Summit, part of the Neighborhood Capacity Building Initiative (NCBI).

Community Review Team

The Community Review Team convened around the 2016 Annual Report Card. The 10 participants discussed the progress made in 2016 and the priorities for 2017. Thanks to the feedback from the team, several action items were revised and clarified.

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 that includes a study of the connections between workforce housing and transportation opportunities in the region. The 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 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. In September, the team participated in a call to review and discuss the current findings of a financial feasibility study and program design options.

Assessor Working Group

The Assessor's Working Group is trying to plan an October meeting with the Assessor to discuss tax relief initiatives for the elderly and low-income, and multi-family valuations. We are currently awaiting his reply.

Insurance Task Force

The committee received the data regarding rates for homeowner and flood insurance and held a meeting in September to discuss the insurance data received from the Louisiana Department of Insurance, which entailed responses from a survey administered to eight, active writers of insurance in Louisiana. The committee will request that the Commissioner break the data down by zip code. The committee will also create 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. GNOHA is in talks with Southface Energy Institute (out of Atlanta) about these initiatives and best practices for moving them forward.