

Planning & Sustainability • City of Northampton

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Housing Partnership
5:30 PM, Monday October 4th,
2021

Zoom Meeting

Members

Carmen Junno, Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Edgardo Cancel	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Hannah Shaffer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Gordon Shaw, Vice Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sarah Howard	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Richard Abuza	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ace Tayloe	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jennifer Dieringer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Julio Alves	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jim Reis	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Staff: Keith Benoit	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

1. Notice that the meeting is being recorded.
2. Introductions and public comment. No public comment.
3. Partnership approved the minutes unanimously by a roll call vote from Sep. 13th 2021 meeting with a motion by Jim Reis and seconded by Richard Abuza.
4. Carmen Junno opened up had a discussion regarding the Housing Partnership and the meeting process. Carmen Junno asked “Is the housing partnership what you expected”? “Do you have any ideas on how to make it better”? Ace Tayloe said that they anticipated that the Housing Partnership would move faster on moving agenda items. Hannah Shaffer echoed what Ace Tayloe said and added that recognizing the difficulty of entering this work during the pandemic and that the pressure of the govt. to build more housing needs to continue. Edgardo Cancel said he has learned a lot over the few years and wish he could do more on sub-committees etc. Jim Reis said that the Housing Partnership has been effective but that the Housing Partnership could be more effective if issues were fleshed more before bringing them to the City. Jennifer Dieringer said that this iteration of the housing partnership is much more active than the last



time she was on. The group could get involved in the resiliency hub. Julio Alves said that that the group is not taking on systemic issues, but taking agenda items more as they come. He also noted that the group has no power. Richard Abuza said that over his time that there has been an evolution in how the partnership operates. Gordon Shaw said we are the advisor to the City Council and Mayor on all matters housing.

5. Noted that there was a member of the public. Annie Connor said she was a resident of Northampton and an attorney with the MA. Fair Housing Center and wanted to just keep any ear on ground for what is happening in housing.
6. The Housing Partnership discussed their goals for the next year. Ace Tayloe said that finishing the brokers fees removal for renters, the transfer fees, and going back to the report for more goals. Jim Reis agreed with Ace Tayloe that some things need to be revisited and that some leaders of housing should come to speak. Get back to writing op-eds in the paper. Sara Howard echoed that housing-first is something she is interested in pursuing and how to increasing the funding for housing from CPA, smart infill, density bonuses, and getting people to use more transit. Jim Reis noted that there are many good ideas but that these need to be compiled and ranked somehow.
7. Updates from Transfer Fee-Subcommittee Report: Ace Tayloe said that the subcommittee fleshed out some ideas with Councilors Alex Jarrett and Rachel Maoire but would like to get more information on the CPA/Affordable Housing Trust Fund. One concern is if the money just goes into general fund.
8. Updates from the Affordable Housing Trust Fund Subcommittee discuss some of the issues surrounding administrative fees. Richard Abuza said that the argument from Wayne Feiden, Director of Planning & Sustainability is a red herring. Julio Alves said that the housing partnership should define what a housing trust fund should do first. He shared his presentation regarding defining the housing trust fund.
9. For next meeting:

- Wayne Feiden to discuss Affordable Housing Trust Fund and Transfer Fee Subcommittee, discuss the original document for the affordable housing trust fund
- Establish goals for the next year

10. Meeting ended a motion by Ace Tayloe and seconded by Gordon Shaw at 7:03 PM.