

Newton Housing Partnership
Meeting Summary from July 23, 2019 Meeting
Newton City Hall
6:00-8:00pm

Partnership Members in Attendance: Rev. Mark Caggiano, Eliza Datta, Chuck Eisenberg, John Hennessey, Lizbeth Heyer, Josephine McNeil, Kathleen Marchi, Marva Serotkin, Stephen Tise

Others in Attendance: Barney Heath, Amanda Berman, members of the public

Approval of June 18, 2019 Meeting Summary

Summary of the meeting was unanimously approved following a motion by Chuck Eisenberg and a second by Kathleen Marchi.

Inclusionary Zoning Ordinance Update

Barney Heath announced the approval by the Council of the proposed IZ Ordinance. The approval included two changes with an effective date of August 1, 2019. There will be a three-year update. All congratulated Amanda Berman on leading this complex process.

Introduction of CDBG and HOME

Rachel Powers from the Planning Department presented a primer on CDBG/HOME entitlement block grants. The planning process starts with the development of a consolidated plan, an action plan and annual performance review. Rachel presented a list of the various components of these grants. In total, Newton will receive approximately \$3.5m in FY20, of which approximately \$1.4m is divided among the 13 communities that make up the WestMetro HOME Consortium, of which Newton is the lead community. The planning process incorporates citizen participation, which has started. The plan will be submitted in May 2020. The Partnership will continue to discuss the Consolidated Plan in September.

West Newton Armory

The NHP working group has been very helpful in reviewing the draft scope of work for a development consultant team, which will be submitted to DHCD for funding. The planning department will circulate the RFP to the Partnership when it is finalized.

Northland Project

The NHP working group for Northland is lead by Josephine McNeil with members Chuck Eisenberg and John Hennessey. The working group submitted a description of the project. In summary the working group concluded that the project satisfied the new IZ requirements (the group recommended holding the developer to the original number of affordable units based on a higher number of total units) and satisfied the goal of not concentrating the affordable units in any one of the ten residential buildings or any floor of the building. The group raised concern about parking and traffic and requested that staff provide NHP with information about both prior to the NHP vote. Another issue that was raised concerned whether to promote inclusion of ELI and then how to fund these units. A September vote by the Land Use Committee is expected.

A member of the public, Randy Block, who attended the meeting spoke and recommended that a representative of the public join the deliberation of the NHP since the community is concerned about the changing nature of Newton.

Riverside Project

Land Use and ZAP meetings scheduled for September. The NHP working group has not met as of yet.

NHA Acquisition of CAN-DO Portfolio

Amanda Berman explained that the NHA has received a request to acquire the 33-unit CAN-DO real estate portfolio that is currently managed by Metro West CD. This management agreement is set to expire the end of the year. The Mayor has asked for NHP input on this proposal. Questions raised include what are the competing uses of the dollars, what happens if no decision is made by the end of the year, what is the role of NHP in the deliberations, should we invite CAN-DO to the NHP meeting? A more robust proposal will be available for the next NHP meeting.

Hello Washington Street Vision Plan and Zoning

The Washington Street working group led by Lizbeth Heyer, submitted a draft of recommendations. In summary, the group supported the overall recommendations of the plan. The plan will be discussed at the September 9th ZAP meeting with rezoning deferred until next year. Peter Harrington, a member of the public attending the meeting, raised concern about the role of large developers that will result in segregation of income levels in these large projects. It was moved by Chuck Eisenberg and seconded by Marva Serotkin and voted to approve the recommendation to support the vision plan with the addition of clarifying the definition of communal living modules.

NEXT MEETING: SEPTEMBER 17, 2019

Respectfully Submitted,

Marva Serotkin