

Newton Housing Partnership Meeting
Meeting Summary from June 16, 2020 Meeting
Via Zoom
6:00-8:00 pm

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

Others in Attendance: Amanda Berman, Barney Heath, Eamon Bencivengo, Dana Hanson, members of the community

Approval of May 19, 2020 Meeting Summary

It was moved by Chuck Eisenberg and seconded by Steve Tise and voted unanimously to approve the meeting summary.

Project Updates

Staff provided the following project updates:

- Armory. Affirmative Investments has been selected to conduct the feasibility analysis of the Armory project. The consultancy is expected to be completed in 3-4 months, submitted to the JAPG with a final report to the Reuse Committee. Affirmative Investments will present to the NHP.
- Riverside. It is expected that the Land Use Committee will present a Board Order to the Council in September. There are 103 affordable units and a \$7m mitigation package.
- Dunstan East. A hearing before the ZBA is scheduled for June 23. Changes include adding 8 units at 50% AMI. There are 59 affordable units and a \$3m mitigation plan.
- Riverdale. The next hearing is scheduled for June 17. Mitigation package is not final. There are 51 affordable units including 1 at 65% AMI and 3 at 50% AMI.
- Other projects under consideration include expansion of Cabot Village, an independent living facility, and 2forLife Communities.

Newton COVID-19 Emergency Housing Relief Program

The fund was launched on May 13th with a deadline of June 3rd. 238 applications have been submitted to date that will be entered into a lottery. Priority are those under 65% AMI. Many applicants are under 50% AMI. Awards in July.

Newton Housing Partnership Project Review Criteria

Eliza Datta reviewed the update draft of the NHP project review criteria. Discussion focused on whether to prioritize ELI in the document (agreed not to be prescriptive regarding ELI rather to encourage developers to provide more deeply affordable units). All agreed that sources of funding for ELI must be identified. Accessibility should be replaced by Access to Opportunity and Stability will be added to the section on Scale and Sustainability.

It was unanimously voted to approve the project review criteria as revised at the meeting. It was proposed that the criteria be posted on the NHP website. The motion was approved with the abstention of Josephine McNeil who advocated for a meeting with Council prior to posting on the website.

Newton Housing Partnership Initiatives

- Zoning Redesign. NHP subcommittee meeting with Planning Department. The group will update the full NHP at each meeting.
- 70% Local Preference. It was moved by Mark Caggiano and seconded by Chuck Eisenberg to inform the ZBA and City of Newton to dispense with the 70% preference because it undermines diversity in Newton. Further that the reference to 70% should be deleted from the Inclusionary Ordinance. It was approved with one abstention by Josephine McNeil. Steve Tise volunteered to attend the upcoming ZBA meeting at which this topic will be discussed.
- Extremely Low Income Strategies. Marva Serotkin presented a brief update of the subcommittee. Kathi Marchi will distribute the report on creating a Community Foundation in Newton.

Upcoming Meetings

NHP meetings will be held the 3rd Tuesday of every month 6-8pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Marva Serotkin