



Ruthanne Fuller
Mayor

Barney Heath
Director of
Planning & Development

Malcolm Lucas
Housing Planner

Members

Esther Schlorholtz, Chair
Donna Rigg, Vice-Chair
Kathy Laufer
Josephine McNeil
Tatjana Meschede
Judy Korzenowski
Alexandra Weiffenbach
Ellen Tanowitz

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CITY OF NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Fair Housing Committee

MEETING MINUTES

Date: August 3, 2022

Time: 8:00 a.m.

Place: Virtual (Zoom)

Members Present: Esther Schlorholtz, Chair

Donna Rigg, Vice Chair

Kathy Laufer

Josephine McNeil

Tatjana Meschede

Ellen Tanowitz

Members Absent: Alexandra Weiffenbach

Judy Korzenowski

Staff Present: Malcolm Lucas, Housing Planner

Jini Fairley, ADA/Sec. 504 Coordinator

Public Present: Councilor Julia Malakie

Malcolm Lucas, Housing Planner served as recorder, Esther Schlorholtz, Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

1. Approval of June 2022 minutes

- Upon a motion by DR, the minutes for June 2022 were approved 6-0-0.

2. Next meetings at 8:00 am on 9/6, 10/4, 11/1, 12/6

- All agreed to move the meetings to the first Tuesday of the month for the remainder of 2022. ES asked ML to follow up with changing the dates on the website and other places notification is given.

3. Committee Priorities Discussion

- **Promote Fair Housing training** for real estate professionals and the public. Offer regular FH training for committee members and inform them of training opportunities. The training discussion will be continued in September’s meeting on the specifics.
- **Promote more successful tenancies (with focus on race/ethnicity, public subsidy, and disability) and improve processes/practices for tenant selection**
 - Identify and work to overcome barriers to successful tenancies in lottery and market-rate multi-family rental housing. Work to promote Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging.
 - Promote improved practices for real estate professionals (owners/developers/management/leasing agents) to achieve better tenant success for diverse populations.
 - Promote collection of data to help guide the City’s policies on successful tenancies. Encourage regular multi-family SHI reporting by developers/owners to the City.
- **Review and improve selection process for affordable homeownership** opportunities for first time home buyers for: resales and newly built deed restricted/Subsidized Housing Inventory (SHI) homes. Promote collection of data to help guide the City’s policies and practices. Promote Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging.
- **Promote welcoming and economically connected communities.** Support and encourage Newton’s efforts to be a more welcoming community for people of all backgrounds. Promote concept of “economic connectedness” for all residents and support Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging initiatives.
- **Promote affordable housing production in coordination with other City commissions and committees.** Support Newton Housing Partnership, Newton Affordable Housing Trust Fund, Newton Housing Authority and Community Preservation Committee initiatives to increase affordable housing production, including for very low-income households of various sizes, and encourage increased funding for both rental and ownership housing. Promote Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging.
- **Improve Fair Housing real estate project reviews** and ensure appropriate projects are reviewed by FHC. Promote Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging.
- **Promote Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH) by supporting federal, state and City initiatives.** Support zoning reform to promote creation of housing opportunities for people of diverse backgrounds; support MBTA Communities, ARPA & other initiatives promoting FH.
- **Improve Fair Housing Complaint process** by working with the City and the Newton Human Rights Commission. Promote improved FH complaint process by the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination (MCAD).
- **Support Fair Housing Testing** in Newton with focus on race/ethnicity, public subsidy, and disability.
- **Nominate FHC members** to address key representation from Human Rights Commission and attorney with specialty in Fair Housing. Promote Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging.

- **Contribute to Newton's Fair Housing-related plans:** Analysis of Impediments, Consolidated Plan, Community Needs Assessment, and other policy and planning initiatives. Promote Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging.
- **Enhance Fair Housing literature and website** information and access for the public. Promote Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging.
- **Promote Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging** in Newton and in all FHC initiatives.

4. **ARPA Recommendations Discussion**

- DR is working on the draft letter that will be addressed to the mayor and will be circulated throughout the Committee via through ML. The letter will be complete and sent to the Mayor before September's meeting date.

5. **Training Program Planning for Fall/Winter**

- The training discussion will be continued in September's meeting on the specifics. See Committee Priorities Discussion

6. **Subcommittee Updates**

- **Lottery Results & Lease-ups Sub-Committee (approval of tenant data collection request)**
 - ET motion to approve the letter and excel spread sheet to Austin Street and Trio property management. DR seconded. The data collection letter will be placed on the Committee's stationary and sent to the appropriate property management.
- **Membership & Nominating Sub-Committee**
 - No updates
- **Fair Housing Award Sub-Committee**
 - No updates
- **Fair Housing Literature Sub-Committee**
 - No updates

7. **Fair Housing Committee Priorities**

- **Project Review of Housing Developments**
 - JF and ES are meeting Mark Development to review ADA 504 issues. And ES will be preparing a letter to be shared with committee.
 - ES and DR would like to receive notifications about DRT meeting. JF stated that she will reach out the Planning to get information about the email distribution.
- **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion**
- **FHC Training for Committee and Public**
- **AI/Consortium Fair Housing Testing**
- **Annual Reporting Requirements for Multi-family Minority Rentals**
- **Use of ARPA Funds**

- DR will follow up with the Committee with a draft letter before the September meeting for feedback.
- **Collaboration with Related Newton Commissions and Committees**
- **Collaboration with Human Rights Committee on Fair Housing Complaint Process and Form**
 - ES asked ML to arrange a meeting with HHS and a member from the HRC to have a discussion about the process.

8. Next meeting Wednesday, September 6, 2022

*Supplementary materials are available for public review in the Planning Department of City Hall (basement) the Friday before the meeting. For more information contact **Malcolm Lucas at 617.796.1149**. The location of this meeting/event is wheelchair accessible and Reasonable Accommodations will be provided to persons with disabilities who require assistance. If you need a Reasonable Accommodation, please contact the city of Newton's ADA/Section 504 Coordinator, Jini Fairley, at least two business days in advance (2 weeks for ASL or CART) of the meeting/event: jfairley@newtonma.gov or (617) 796-1253. The city's TTY/TDD direct line is: 617-796-1089. For the Telecommunications Relay Service (TRS), please dial 711