



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  
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## CITY OF NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS

### Fair Housing Committee

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## MEETING MINUTES

Date: September 6, 2022

Time: 8:00 a.m.

Place: Virtual (Zoom)

**Members Present:** Esther Schlorholtz, Chair

Donna Rigg, Vice Chair

Kathy Laufer

Josephine McNeil

**Members Absent:** Alexandra Weiffenbach

Judy Korzenowski

Tatjana Meschede

Ellen Tanowitz

**Staff Present:** Malcolm Lucas, Housing Planner

Jini Fairley, ADA/Sec. 504 Coordinator

**Public Present:** Rena Getz

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

**1. Approval of August 2022 minutes**

- Approval of minutes are postponed until October's meeting because there is not a quorum and voting is not allowed.

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

- ES had a discussion with CHAPA and there is progress being made. CHAPA was pleased to hear that the FHC were proactive in providing training for real estate professionals. The meeting will most likely take place on Zoom and be about an hour with a question-and-answer session.



- JM stated that she will follow up with HUD to have a staff come and train the FHC on FHEO

### **3. AFFH initiatives on ARPA and Village Center Zoning**

- ES stated that she was grateful to the City of Newton for their efforts working on zoning reform and spoke about an online session that the city is providing on September 8<sup>th</sup> from 6-7pm for commenting on Village Center zoning redesign plans. She encouraged the FHC to attend and to give input and make comments online. She said that at our next meeting, we will further discuss the changes proposed by the City and expects that the committee will offer comments related to Fair Housing aspects. She noted that the Fair Housing Act specifically refers to zoning policies and prohibits local governments from making zoning or land use decisions or implementing policies that exclude or discriminate against those protected by Fair Housing law.

### **4. Project Review Update on Crafts & 1314 Washington**

- ES and JF met with Mark Development to discuss follow-up to their June presentation. The meeting was held to enable JF to ask ADA questions and it went well. The developers are currently working with JF on the projects and ES stated that a letter could be drafted and could be discussed in the next meeting or November. JM noted that the FHC needs to find out the dates for the land use public meeting because it may be too late. ES agreed. ES stated that they would have to wait for the updated materials to decide.

### **5. Subcommittee Updates**

#### **• Lottery Results & Lease-ups Sub-Committee**

- JM suggested that they should wait for the data that was sent out to Austin St. and TRIO before any discussion should happen. ES agreed and there was no further discussion.

#### **• Membership & Nominating Sub-Committee**

- There are not any updates at this time. The Committee is still searching for a fair housing attorney to join the committee and spoke to HKD about recruiting a member from the Human Rights Commission. DR encouraged committee members to search their networks because the recruiting will be up to them.
- KL stated that she is resigning from the Fair Housing Committee. Committee members and Planning staff recognized her and thanked her for her commitment and services. They said that she will be missed for all of the great work she has done for Newton and the Fair Housing Committee. KL asked if ML could take over collecting the data for the subcommittee. ML agreed.

#### **• Fair Housing Award Sub-Committee**

- ES asked if the committee members could start thinking about a nominee for 2023.

#### **• Fair Housing Literature Sub-Committee**

### **6. Fair Housing Committee Priorities Discussion**

- **Promote housing choice for diverse populations to advance Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH), with focus on race/ethnicity, public subsidy and disability**

- **Identify and work to overcome barriers to successful tenancies and to improve processes/practices for tenant selection in lottery and market rate multi-family rental housing**
- **Promote improved practices for real estate professionals to achieve more housing choice for diverse populations**
- **Promote effective processes/practices for new affordable homeownership and resales**
- **Promote data collection on multi-family rental and new homeownership occupancy**
- **Promote FH training for real estate professionals, public and committee members**
- **Enhance Project Review of Housing Developments to advance AFFH**
- **Support AI/Consortium Fair Housing Testing and FH testing in Newton**
- **Collaborate with Related Newton Commissions and Committees to increase affordable housing for households of various sizes and lower incomes and to encourage increased funding for affordable housing**
- **Promote affordable housing production in coordination with other City commissions and committees**
- **Support federal, state and city initiatives that promote AFFH**
- **Collaborate with Human Rights Committee on Fair Housing Complaint Process**
  - ES stated that JF and ML are coordinating a meeting with the Human Rights Commission at this time. ES stated that on the City's website the complaint process is clear although there will be follow up for clarity.
- **Contribute to Newton's FH-related plans**
- **Enhance FH literature and website information and access for the public**
  - ES stated that there were not any updates on this matter. ES did encourage the committee members to search the City Website and stated that the Fair Housing Website is very thorough and has all types of materials and resources.
- **Address committee membership appointments with representation from Human Rights Commission and legal counsel with FH specialty**
- **Promote Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging in Newton**

## **7. Next meeting Tuesday, October 4, 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](mailto: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