

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF
THE BOARD MEMBERS OF
HARRIS COUNTY HOUSING POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

THE STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF HARRIS

The Board of Members of the Harris County Housing Policy Advisory Committee (the “Board”) convened in their first session at 10:00 a.m. on the 25th day of September, in the Auditorium Conference Room of the Harris County Community Services Department, 8410 Lantern Point Dr, Houston, Texas, and roll was called at 10:04 a.m. of the duly constituted acting members of the Committee, to-wit:

Daphne Lemelle	Harris County Community Services Department
Allison Hay	Houston Habitat for Humanity
Lance Gilliam	Precinct 1
Mike Moody	Greater Houston Builder’s Association
Mike Nichols	Coalition for the Homeless
Zoe Middleton	Texas Housers
Oudrey Hervey	United States Veterans Initiative
Erica Brown	County Judge
Starla Turnbo	Houston Apartment Association
Mary Green	Harris County Children and Adult Protective Services
Tom McCasland	City of Houston Housing and Community Development
Quentin Wright	Lone Star College
Eric Heppen	Precinct 3
Horace Allison	Harris County Housing Authority
Mercedes Sanchez	Precinct 2
Assata Richards	Sankofa Research Institute
Dr. Umair Shah	Harris County Public Health
Lloyd Smith	County Engineering

And all of said members were present at the convening of such meeting, except Paul Shanklin representing Precinct 4, Jennifer Herring representing Harris County Sheriff’s Department and Wayne Young of Mental Health Authority, thus constituting a quorum. The following persons also attended the meeting: Judit Haracsek, Lisa Champagne, Christy Lambright, Rene Martinez and Richelle Henderson representing Harris County Community Services; Aimee Schultze and Staci Lofton representing Harris County Public Health; Kyle Shelton of Kinder Institute; Jeff Hall and Andy Teas of Houston Apartment Association.

Welcome, Introductions and Overview

Chairwoman Daphne Lemelle gave a brief presentation about the Committee: “The Harris County Housing Policy Advisory Committee is created to collectively to review research data on housing need and affordability in Harris County, study and advise on County housing policies, and recommend specific actions or initiatives to encourage or facilitate affordable and work force housing while protecting the ability of the property to appreciate in value.” (Housing Policy Committee Guidelines). Allison Hay stated the need of a plan. Lance Gilliam stated the importance of body making policies and recommendations and available choices of housing. Mike Moody reiterated the needs for affordability, land, labor and materials. Mike Nichols said he wants to see more collaboration between CSD and the Coalition for the Homeless; he mentioned that policy should be flexible, supportive, also focused on the elderly, add a planning structure and have more flexibility of spending. Zoe Middleton mentioned that committee also needs to focus on the low-moderate renters, making sure they have safe and healthy options; She also mentioned the need for community meetings to get the public involved. Oudrey Hervey stated he wants more assertive/creative problem solutions and affordable housing. Erica Brown mentioned the need to have non and for-profit partners, per zone data and evidence. Starla Turnbo mentioned she wants to see reasonable expectations to housing; Realistic expectations. Mary Green mentioned the need that Hay Center has with their wards, homeless aging out of foster care. Tom McCasland stated the need of a comprehensive housing plan, that City and County need to coordinate more closely. Quentin Wright said that he wants to impact affordable housing and support more the students. Eric Heppen mentioned the need of a comprehensive plan that works for everyone, we need to plan for the future not just now. Horace Allison stated the need of an achievable comprehensive housing plan, due to the increase on homeless people. Mercedes Sanchez reiterated the need to use Housing effectively. Aimee Schultze spoke on behalf of Dr. Umair Shah regarding creating new efforts in housing, health and wellbeing. Assata Richards stated she wants to see a mature and disciplined policy framework, long term plan. Loyd Smith stated he is new to housing but he hopes that committee can work smart with policy goals in mind.

Election of Committee Vice-Chair

Chairwoman Daphne Lemelle asked for nominees for Vice-Chair at 10:23 a.m., Oudrey Hervey was the only member to nominate himself. Upon motion made by Quentin Wright, seconded by Starla Turnbo and duly passed by unanimous vote, election of the Committee Vice-Chair was approved.

Affordable Housing Study Overview – Kinder Institute

Kyle Shelton with Kinder Institute made a brief Housing Study RFP presentation at 10:25 a.m.; It was mentioned along other items: potential job locations; housing opportunities; housing status in the County – huge gap for low income individuals/families to identify secure affordable homes both in the City and County, housing costs being higher to these individuals according to new data

released recently; multifamily 150k flood plan – all these items were considered top indicators to be assessed.

It was stated by Kyle that the RFP study is the most comprehensive one to date, there are many things to be incorporated, the need to add more data work across all of the jurisdictions. Member Assata Richards add that people from other sectors should be able to participate in the study, bringing more valuable data.

CSD Housing Programs Overview

At 10:45 a.m. Chairwoman Daphne Lemelle gave an introduction of the present CSD team and an overview of the Housing Programs offered by Harris County Community Services Department. “The overarching goal of CSD programs is to improve housing accessibility, affordability, resiliency and protection primarily for low-moderate income persons and vulnerable populations.” It was agreed by all members the lack of funding from the State of Texas, unfortunately Harris County does not have the support like other counties have from different states have.

Chairwoman Daphne Lemelle mentioned that since 2012 17k homeless people were housed due to efforts between the Coalition doe the Homeless and CSD.

Christy Lambright, Assistant Director of Planning & Development explained HUD Entitlement Funding and CSD Local Programs. Judit Haracsek, Chief Recovery Officer went over CSD Disaster Recovery Programs (Hurricane Harvey, Homeowner Housing Program). Rene Martinez, Assistant Director of Housing Development & Special Initiatives explained the Single Family Housing Programs also offered under the Disaster Recovery Program, Rene also went over Fair Housing and Housing Equity. Richelle Henderson with CSD Housing Programs section presented the Affordable Rental Housing Program and current awarded properties. Rene Martinez closed the presentation explaining the current strategies in development to assist the County with the financing and management affordable housing development in Harris County that are outside the traditional way of business, like the Harris County Community Land Trust assisted by Burlington Associates; and the Harris County Community Development Entity – New Market Tax Credits (by October 28).

Schedule of Upcoming Meetings

Members were presented with a full scheduled of meetings for 2019/2020.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 11:33 a.m.