

ATHENS AFFORDABLE HOUSING COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

July 30, 2018, 12 P.M. Athens City Hall Conference Room

Attendees: Sarah Grace, Paul Logue, Shawna Bolin, Keith Andrews, Michele Papai, Jacob Mitchell, Susan Barga, Danita Sharp, Sara Marris-Maxfield, Noah Trembley

Guest: City Council Member Chris Fahl; City Council President Chris Knisely; City Mayor Steve Patterson; Citizen Mary Abel, as a representative of the Far East Side Neighborhood Association

- I. Welcome by Mayor Steve Patterson and Athens City Council President Chris Knisely
- II. Introductions were offered by those present
- III. Reviewed the Background of the Affordable Housing Commission Task Force, with reference to the Executive Summary, previously provided, and the full report, which Paul Logue will make available to the group (the link to this report: <http://www.ci.athens.oh.us/DocumentCenter/View/4266/City-of-Athens-OHIO-University-Housing-Task-Force-Final-Report-12-2016>)
- IV. Reviewed the Powers and Duties of the Commission as established in the City Ordinance that documents creation of the Commission, and also referred to the definition of a commission in Ohio Revised Code, section 121.22, noting that the Commission is public body, subject to Sunshine laws.
- V. Reviewed the Length of Term on Commission (3 year, 2 year, 1 year)
- VI. Selected
 - a. Chair – Sarah Grace (motion made by Sara Marris Maxfield & seconded by Danita Sharp; vote taken & motion carried)
 - b. Secretary – Sara Marris-Maxfield (motion made by Sarah Grace & seconded by Michele Papai; vote taken & motion carried)
- VII. Established Regular Meeting Times – monthly, tentatively the 3rd Monday of each month, next meeting 8/20/18 @ noon. A goal of a 6-month progress report was mentioned; a yearly report to City Council is also a requirement listed in the ordinance 108-17
- VIII. General Discussion/Comments:

Shawna Bolin asked about the general charge of the group, referencing the ordinance & executive summary previously mentioned. As creator of the City Ordinance creating the Commission, City Council member Chris Fahl urged a thorough review of the full report, and encouraged the group to consider actionable items, and also to think about grants, field trips to study firsthand the best practices in other communities. Susan Barga said this consideration of the broad goals and charge of the group could be an agenda item for the next meeting. As Co-Chair of the earlier Affordable Housing Task Force, Michele Papai said it was a long-term goal to eventually have a person dedicated to this endeavor or pursuing affordable housing measures for Athens.

Keith Andrews mentioned the resources of the Metropolitan Housing Authority.

Sara Marris-Maxfield, as a member of the original Task Force mentioned that another overall goal was to increase owner-occupied housing stock.

Noah Trembley notes that he agreed to serve on this Commission because he rented in the city and found his housing not up to date. He is interested in serving to represent others needing safe, affordable, up-to-date housing.

Sara Marris-Maxfield mentioned the idea of encouraging improvements in one neighborhood, providing housing that incorporates universal design. Mary Abel commented after the meeting that this concentrated improvement directed towards one neighborhood was completed in the West Side of Athens some years ago (the city possible has records on the dates).

Michele Papai commented that she thinks it will be important for the Commission to make hard (substantial) recommendations.

Shawna Bolin suggested establishing 3-4 subgroups.
- IX. Adjournment: Sara Marris-Maxfield moved & Sarah Grace seconded to adjourn; motion carried.