

ATHENS AFFORDABLE HOUSING COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

September 17, 2018, 12 P.M. Athens City Hall Conference Room

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

Guests: Citizen Mary Abel, as a representative of the Far East Side Neighborhood Association.

- I. **Establish Quorum** – S. Grace called to order at 12:07 with quorum established.
- II. **Disposition of Minutes** – P. Logue moved to accept, M. Papai seconded. Motion carried.
- III. **Discussion and Ranking of Recommendations from the Housing Task Force Report** – S. Grace asked the members to engage in a discussion about the Housing Task Force Report. M. Papai reviewed a housing map of the city and requested some clarifications from P. Logue. The members were asked to rank the recommendations. S. Bolin suggested that there are 3 main recommendations. 1. Trying to provide more new housing stock, 2. Look at neighborhood revitalization, 3. Incent home owner occupation. S. Grace stated that she envisions two options; creating more stock or converting existing properties back from rental to family/professional housing. M. Papai stated that we (task force) looked at several different ways to address issue, there was not any one way that would accomplish all the intended goals. We are here to make recommendations to city Council as to how to move that along. The land bank has now been established and that was identified as an avenue. P. Logue - the land bank is really focused on delinquent properties but there are not many in the city. S. Barga - would it be this group that would put an incentive package together? S. Grace – no, we only have the ability to recommend to council. S. Bolin - zoning may be a slow process but does it make sense to start with revised zoning. What else could we put in place to move affordable housing forward? P. Logue - this has been an issue for many years, this commission probably isn't going to solve this problem. We need more code enforcement staff, we can make changes in the code. S. Bolin - how do we get to the action plan and the team identified to carry out the tasks so that there is not another "commission" talking about the same things again. The university has offered land to develop as part of a larger partnership. What is our Strategic plan for housing? Meaning, a high-level management structure for the plan, incentivization and marketing ideas. S. Grace – What exactly is the idea for affordable housing at the ridges? S. Bolin - using the land behind carriage hill to leverage affordable housing opportunities. But, we need to look at the overall strategy. P. Logue – I see our role as making a recommendation to council about the management structure. S. Marrs-Maxfield – How about we each look at a potential structure, do some research and share with the group next month. We need to understand better all the groups that are involved with housing, and then what the management structures could be. S. Bolin – so moving forward, the goals for this commission are to think about a strategic plan for housing , potential management structures , high level policy's procedures, options for marketing/incentivizing expansion of housing stock.
- IV. **Announcements & Other Business** -
- V. **Adjourn** - D. Sharp made a motion to adjourn, S. Barga seconded, the motion to adjourn carried 1:06pm.