

**TASK FORCE MEETING
MAY 2009**

Members Present: Paul O'Hanlon, Chairperson, Co-chair, Janet Evans, Sarah Goldstein, Rich McGann

Members Absent: Katherine D. Seelman, Aurelia Carter, Linda Dickerson, Liz Healey, Milton Henderson, James C. Noschese, Jeff Parker, John Tague

Others Present: Joe Elliott, Danielle Lengle, Chuck Keenan, Gethardt Egri, Judy Barricella, Charles Morrison, Robin Smith, TN Ellas, Mara Schwabeubaur, Lawrence Hast, Angelo Voecara, Larry Hockenberry, Lucy Rooth, Victoria Campbell, Matt Pavlosky, David Stragar, Tamera Siegert, Sally Po Snyder, Asia Pruden

Introductions

Financial Report – Paul reported

Budget barely lets us do our work. Balance of just over \$1100 after this meeting. Ask for narrative (me). Janet moved to table this that we get narrative. Kate seconded.

I spoke

Pat has been kind with regards to complaints about the operation. He has gotten people out. Problems in Penn Ave Corridor (downtown) as to level of sound.

Larry: Blind and Deaf can't hear sirens, maybe before signal can be longer for emergency vehicles

R.M.: Do not have technology

Larry: Has mechanism to flash when a vehicle is going by

Lucy Roose: 2 individuals here wanted a home, sustainable through their whole life span. Met with TRICL, lots of hope was born. \$14,000 plus for lots in the city of Pittsburgh. Lot configuration is a problem. Went to several neighborhoods to get low cost or not cost lots. You can stay in your neighborhood. Identify mortgage help. PHFA will allow \$10,000 access modification grant to all applicants.

Rich: New shopping and recreation near us

Lucy: Create a committee to keep it going. Universal design was not expensive. Security is important. Universal Design wired for assistive tech and security system. Elevator in every 2 story house. If the volume of elevators go up the cost will go down. GE has assistive technology and named lots of hope as ecoimagation project. Washington County providing CAP funding for people with disabilities, PWSA considering raising income limit for down payment fees, still have not built their first house.

Danielle : Are you looking at creations for elevators

Lucy: Yes, safety mechanisms in elevators, stairs

Article Habitat for Humanity has received money. Have you contacted them.

TRICL: Why only two floors

Lucy: The higher the building the more expensive the elevators. Quid design- 2 units each floor.

R.M. Is it possible to have power without electricity.

Lucy: Generator, will safety design factors be enough.

Kate: Westmoreland is easier than Allegheny. What barriers exist.

Lucy: Easier to get across in Washington county than Allegheny county.

Lucy: Can build \$135,000 in city old infra structure, so need 20 to 30,000 in contingency

Kate: Is this a business plan

Lucy: Yes, but still identifying issues

Kate: What are you looking for from the Task Force

Lucy: Help to get to the right people

Rich: Understand Westmoreland- with access you can't get transportation

Lucy: Washington county is starting a program in Washington city started in Pittsburgh

Holly: Washington county does have pat transit and they can be linked

Will make contact with county

Lucy: At 80% of medium, would like to be at 120%. PHFA is looking to allow medical expenses to be deducted to qualify.

Janet: What is income

Lucy: 30,000 – 51,000 per household

Paul: county CDBA has August deadline for proposal

Lucy: NSP funding for both county and city

Sarah: Do people with behavioral health qualify

Lucy: No, they can live in any house

Paul: What are you asking of Task Force

Lucy: Get 2 people to review work and brainstorm as to how to move forward.

Paul: Who here wants to work on this committee

Janet, Paul, volunteered

Larry: Talking about affordable housing for low income. Is credit history part of that?
Consider utilities(heat), background check, and credit history

Lucy: Applicant must qualify for mortgage with bank. Funding issue will lower the cost of the house.

Kate: asked about tax credit

Lucy: I know about that

Larry: If you go through HUD they can deny you for criminal background.

Lucy: Still need to be able to buy a house. HUD programs are for those who can't afford a home. Contact 412-298-9869

Chuck: Meeting since January on prototype house that is affordable, assessable and sustainable. Difficult getting house built for under \$200,000.

Rich: Is the house marketing the problem

Chuck: Cost on construction in front end, Price around 25,000, ask to design house to be constructed, 3 bedroom. Probably ranch, meeting on Tuesday at 2pm. Probably second to last or last meeting. Goal to have something in place this summer and fall.

Sarah: only for people with physical disabilities

Chuck: No, built for anyone

Kate: Don't know about accessibility features

Janet: When you are doing house are the interior glass giberglass so walls are not scratched

Lucy: Have not thought of that,

Kate: Do you have any disability experts on committee

Chuck: No

Theresa: Most houses don't have the flashing light outlets.

Chuck: Can include

Kate: Does Teresa know of anyone in Architor

Theresa: No,

Joe: Will give some thought and take it to GTAB

Kate: Security systems now have capability o monitor.

Chuck: Under cost constraint but build a house for everyone. Can add technology into proposal

Laurie Trent: Needs to see someone at front door. Own my own home

Kate: Camera system

Laurie: Something through phone company.

Chuck: Security subcontracting through T.V. will look into that

Janet: Thought cable will check it out

Larry: Can they talk to them

Introduction

Jamila

Looking at perfecting tax credit and working on adible tax credit

Vox Pop

Larry: Swanson video relay service. Deaf people don't have computers. Services at difficult cost

McGann: Swanson and other UP companies depend on high speed technology. People are throwing away telephones and have no access to 911

Kate: Originally deaf and hard of hearing got lower prices for TTD's

Janet: Will numbers of other cable companies and Dish

Danielle: Can database be of past speakers

Kate: Develop expertise that can come in and help

Janet: A lot of companies are willing to work with disabilities

Motion to adjourn Janet and Rich second 2:50pm