

Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing Task Force

Meeting Summary

March 7, 2017

3 – 4:30pm

Type of Meeting: Quarterly AFFH Task Force Meeting

Location: Piatt Place, 301 Fifth Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA, Suite 309, Room 3023

Attendees: Richard Morris, Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh
Bill Price, Allegheny County Commission on Human Relations (*phone*)
Bob Damewood, Regional Housing Legal Services
Carlos Torres, Pittsburgh Commission on Human Relations
Chuck Keenan, Allegheny County Department of Human Services
David Dean, REALTORS Association of Metropolitan Pittsburgh
David Jones, Pennsylvania Commission on Human Relations
Ernie Hogan, Pittsburgh Community Reinvestment Group
Gale Schwartz, Housing Alliance of Pennsylvania
Helen Gerhardt, Pittsburgh Commission on Human Relations
Jamilah Lahijuddin, Hill District Consensus Group
John Tague, Jr., JT Disability Consulting Services
Kevin Quisenberry, Community Justice Project
Lyle Wood, Pennsylvania Commission on Human Relations
Megan Hammond, Fair Housing Partnership
Molly Nichols, Pittsburghers for Public Transit
Nicole Jackson, Housing Authority of Pittsburgh
Paul O'Hanlon, City-County Task Force on Disabilities (*phone*)
Peter Harvey, Allegheny County Department of Human Services
Rachael Surmick, NeighborWorks Western Pennsylvania
Rebecca Aguilar-Francis, Jewish Family & Children's Service
Sarah Kinter, Pittsburgh Commission on Human Relations
Sean DeYoung, Pittsburgh AIDS Task Force
Zohra Lasania, Council on American-Islamic Relations (*phone*)

I. Welcome

Richard Morris welcomed participants and gave a short overview of the business on the agenda. He asked those persons present to introduce themselves.

II. Roll Call & Membership

Attendees were asked to introduce themselves and the organization they represent to ensure quorum would be met. The number of organizations required to meet quorum was 17, and after a head count it was determined that quorum was met with 19 members. Rachel Salem of the Pittsburgh Commission on Human Relations (PCHR) reviewed and completed roll call using the completed membership forms. Ms. Salem asked that anyone who was not sure about membership for their organization should contact her to update their information.

III. By-Laws

Mr. Morris instructed Sarah Kinter to begin the review of and vote on the by-laws. There was a motion to adopt the by-laws by Ernie Hogan, with a second by Molly Nichols. The following amendments were motioned and issues discussed:

1. An amendment to change the requirements for quorum to equal one-half of the full membership from one-third was made in a motion by Gale Schwartz, seconded by Rachael Surmick. After discussion, the question resulted in nine (9) ayes and ten (10) nays. The motion did not carry.
2. An amendment to explicitly state that members of the private market be included as eligible members of the Task Force was motioned by Ms. Schwartz, seconded by Carlos Torres. Following discussion, Ms. Schwartz withdrew her original amendment and a revised motion was provided by Kevin Quisenberry, that the membership section II, No. 3(b), be amended to include “trade associations” after the word “nonprofit,” and to change the language to reflect that membership “have a role to play in advancing fair housing,” seconded by Chuck Keenan. The motion passed unanimously.
3. Members discussed the intent and possible conflicts of interest that may arise from Section II, No 6. There was general agreement that there may be a need to recuse oneself from voting on behalf of an organization, and that the Task Force may have to be comfortable with some membership organizations taking different stances than the Task Force as a whole.
4. A motion was made to amend the by-laws to strike Section II, No 5, that members “shall have demonstrated experience and/or expertise relevant to the work of AFFH,” in a motion by Ms. Schwartz, seconded by John Tague. The motion yielded seven (7) ayes and nine (9) nays and did not carry. Ms. Surmick motioned to clearly define “demonstrated experience” in relation to the document and in relation to the city's analysis of impediments to fair housing and make sure

experience relates back to what those impediments are defined. There was no second to the motion. In further discussion, Mr. Hogan motioned to create a “Definition” section in the by-laws to address the need to define terms, seconded by Ms. Schwartz. The motion carried unanimously.

5. A motion to amend Section II, No. 9 to “Members shall be active participants in at least one subcommittee...” was made by Ms. Nichols, and seconded by Mr. Torres. The motion carried unanimously.
6. A motion was made by Ms. Schwartz to amend Section II, No. 12 and No. 13 that there be a vote of all Task Force members present at a quarterly meeting, not just a vote of Steering Committee members to accept, remove or reject members, seconded by Ms. Gerhardt. The motion carried unanimously.
7. An amendment was made by a motion from Bob Damewood to change “housing providers” to “at-large members” and change the structure to 9 and 15 members, with a minimum of one and a maximum of three seats for each of the categories. This was seconded by Ms. Surmick and the motion carried.
8. Kevin Quisenberry of the Community Justice Project motioned to amend the language of Section III, No 5(d) to clarify that the vote will include only the members present at a quarterly meeting. This was seconded by Ms. Schwartz and the motion carried.
9. Ms. Schwartz motioned to discontinue stenography at the quarterly meetings, which was seconded by Mr. Keenan. Upon further discussion it was decided that the stenography should be continued and kept for review if necessary but there should be a more condensed summary prepared for members and the public, with the knowledge that all records are subject to FOIA. Ms. Surmick made a motion to create summarized, streamlined notes that are voted on for acceptance and used as the public record, and that the stenography would be available for members only, with a second from Mr. Damewood. The motion carried with thirteen (13) ayes, and two (2) nays.
10. The motion to adopt the by-laws with the amendments as discussed at this meeting was carried unanimously.

IV. Annual Meeting

Carlos Torres, Director of the PCHR, presented the details regarding the first Annual Meeting of the AFFH Task Force. The meeting will be held at the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary on Monday, April 17, 2017 from 8am – 4:30pm. There will be training by Sara Pratt, formerly of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, a vote on

Steering Committee members and officer positions, and committee collaboration. A representative from each organization is strongly encouraged to attend and registration is required due to the funding required to host the event. Registration will close on March 31, 2017. If spaces are available, secondary representatives will be permitted to attend. Additionally, the PCHR will look into recording the training to make it available to members who are unable to attend.

V. Committee Reports

Mr. Morris asked that the Committees give a short one-minute read out. Mr. Keenan gave a short report out of his committee, stating that he hoped the group could assess more at the annual meeting. He explained the committee would continue monitoring the City's source of income legislation, and explore recommendations to address barriers to housing for persons who are homeless or have criminal records.

VI. Adjournment

Noting the time, Mr. Morris thanked the staff of the Commission, and the participants for their work and adjourned the meeting.