

## Orange County Affordable Housing Advisory Board Minutes

Thursday, May 13, 2021 at 6:00 PM

Virtual Meeting

**Members Present:** Mae McLendon, Arthur Sprinczeles, Jenn Sykes, Adejuwon Ojebuoboh, Olivia Fischer.

**Members Absent:** Holly Meschko (excused), Douglas Boemker (excused), James Eichel, Cain Twyman, Tammy Jacobs (Vice Chair), Allison Mahaley, Keith Cook (Chair).

**Staff Present:** Erika Brandt (Interim Housing and Community Development Director), Maria Dewees (Acting Housing and Community Development Manager).

**Public Present:** Saru Salvi, Tim Woody.

- I. **Call to Order/Introductions** – Ms. Sykes volunteered to chair the meeting beginning at 6:08 PM.
- II. **Approval of the February 9, 2021 Minutes** – The advisory board was unable to approve prior meeting minutes without a quorum present. No corrections to the minutes were proposed. This item was tabled until the next AHAB meeting.
- III. **Introductions-** OCHCD staff, advisory board members and guests introduced themselves.
- IV. **Board Member Updates** –

Ms. Sykes updated the AHAB about the 160D North Carolina General Statute regarding urban development ordinances. Local governments in North Carolina have adopted text amendments to update their development ordinances to comply with the new NCGS Chapter 160D.

Ms. Sykes updated AHAB members on the Orange County Board of Commissioners Elections Advisory Group (BEAG) to study how county commissioners are elected in Orange County and to recommend possible changes for consideration by the Board of Commissioners.

The Board discussed the recent County property tax valuations in the community and advocacy by The Marian Cheek Jackson Center (MCJC) and Orange County Home Preservation Coalition (OCPEC) around the issue of inequitable tax burden on the Northside, Tin Top and Pine Knolls neighborhoods- all historically African-American communities. OCHCD staff shared copies of the advocacy letters authored by MCJC and OCPEC about this issue.

Ms. Salvi (soon-to-be AHAB member) recommended a podcast about housing called Bending the Arc.

**V. Department of Housing and Community Development (OCHCD) Updates**

Erika Brandt updated the Board about Emila Sutton's departure from OCHCD and the organization structure while a new permanent director is hired.

Ms. Brandt also presented the Department's request for funds from the American Rescue Plan (ARP) to fund the Emergency Housing Assistance Program. The Department's current request includes \$4 million in funding each year for the next four (4) years. Decisions about ARP funding will be made by the Board of County Commissioners in the coming weeks. The Annual Budgeting process will also take place in June and OCHCD has requested local funding for EHA as well.

Ms. Brandt also updated the Board on ongoing collaboration with the Towns on a countywide Manufactured Housing Strategy to respond to the displacement caused by the sale and redevelopment of manufactured home parks.

**VI. Old and New Business –**

- a. New Member Appointments –** Introduction of new members joining the AHAB. Gio Mollinedo and Saru Salvi's terms will begin on May 18, 2021. Tim Woody's term will begin on July 1, 2021 when Tammy Jacobs' term ends.
- b. Election of Chair and Vice Chair –** Quorum needed. This item was tabled until the next AHAB meeting.
- c. Adoption of Updated AHAB Policies and Procedures –** Quorum needed. This item was tabled until the next AHAB meeting.
- d. Share Standard AHAB Presentation –** Ms. Brandt shared a PowerPoint presentation of the Department's programs and resources and requested that each member of the AHAB share this presentation with other community groups. OCHCD would appreciate the AHAB's help getting the word out about County resources.

**VII. Adjournment –** The meeting adjourned at 6:45PM

Submitted by Maria Dewees, Acting Housing and Community Development Manager