

NOAH Affordable Housing Task Force Meeting Minutes

May 17, 2020

Present: Dawnyell Fletcher, Ann Gwin, Monica Rainey, *Sally Carlson-Bancroft, Susie Ries, Irene Boyd, Pat McDonald, Mike Hodge, Jerry Park, Ashley Bachelder, Caroline Erickson, Kay Bowers, Ken Lichstein, *Madin Akpo-Esambe, Maggie Cox, Molly Williams, Natasha Deane, Regena Davis, Patricia Finney, *Brooks Smith, Elaine Smyth, Martha Carroll, *Blair Glenn, Edward Thompson, Carleen Dowell, Paulette Coleman, Steve Venick, Jim Zralek

*First time attendees

I. **Welcome and Preliminaries**

- a. The meeting was called to order at 2:34pm by Monica Rainey.
- b. Introductions of first time attendees or new attendees were made
- c. Minutes were reviewed and accepted with one correction from Kay Bowers correction in section IV, paragraph two.

II. **CARES Act fund allocation (Kay Bowers)**

- a. CARES Act allocated monies to be sent to states, with extra money to municipalities with populations over 500,000. Nashville Metro allocation is \$121 million to date.
- b. Money should be used for a rental assistance fund like is being done in cities such as Houston, Austin, Minneapolis, Chattanooga, and Knoxville.
- c. Funds should be managed by non-profits with experience in this
- d. We don't have information on who has the authority to give out funds, but are working on getting more information (small amount of people in charge, process in non-transparent).
- e. Stand up Nashville has been pressuring metro to use and allocate for rental assistance and small businesses
- f. Need to speak to councilmembers to make sure some money goes to rental assistance

III. **State Government Working Group Report (Natasha Deane)**

- a. Have a goal to influence the state legislature, addressing state control that can make the housing process worse or better.
- b. Reaching out to faith groups such as Episcopal Beloved Community Commission who is doing awareness around absentee voting.
- c. Other initiatives include power mapping to understand who the various stakeholders and influences are across the state and legislature watch to determine what types of legislature is going on throughout the state.
- d. Also, the group is working on voter protection and expanding absentee voting. Tennessee has much stricter guidelines when compared to the rest of the country.
- e. Email Natasha Dean (natadeane@gmail.com) if you would like to help with any of these initiatives.

IV. Review NOAH's Budget priorities

- a. Monica Rainey reviewed NOAH's statement on the budget. See attached.

V. Tax Relief Programs (Mike Hodge)

- a. 8,329 people participated in tax relief programs when it is estimated that 12,000 people are eligible for the programs
- b. Tax relief- rebate - max \$29,860 income
 - i. Gives reimbursements of some of property taxes to senior homeowners
- c. Tax freeze – max \$42,620 income
 - i. Property tax frozen at previous years rate
- d. Partnership with Council on Aging to ramp up outreach
 - i. NOAH's outreach through member organizations/ Social media
- e. NOAH's statement encourages expansion of relief eligibility
- f. Several platforms were proposed to inform people about tax relief programs such Vice-Mayor, Jim Shulman community meetings, Tennessean, radio station, email to the listserv.
- g. Might be able to advocate CARES money to be used for property tax forgiveness or to set our own tax relief programs for specified affected groups.

VI. Communication with Councilmembers

- a. Reach out through phone call, text, and/or email between May 17th – June 15th
- b. Topics to discuss include:
 - NOAHs Statement on the budget (find out what CMs want in the budget and then share NOAH's budget priorities)
 - Using CARES monies for rental assistance programs
 - Transparency regarding how CARES money is being spent

VII. Evaluation

- a. Feelings: lot to learn, really informed and excited, motivated, informed, good meeting
- b. How did the meeting work: Didn't seem like there was enough time, good job running the meeting, started and ended 5 minutes late, would be nice to have agenda before the next meeting, more action plans
- c. Tension: allow ourselves some grace, need a bit more time, trying to pay attention to meeting and figure out technology
- d. Political learning: perhaps we were born for such as time as this...we are doing exactly what we were meant to do

VIII. Closing Prayer at 3:37pm by Jerry Park

Minutes submitted by Dawnyell Fletcher