



October 2017 Standing Committee & Initiative Reports

Public Policy Committee

The Public Policy Committee met in October to discuss the City of New Orleans' 2018 Budget advocacy and 2017 policy priorities. Committee members attended the budget hearing to advocate for short-term rental fees to be placed in the Neighborhood Housing Improvement Fund. The Committee discussed HousingNOLA's Put Housing First Scorecard. Jane Place Neighborhood Sustainability Initiative gave a presentation on short-term rentals, emphasizing that the city has nearly 2000 illegal short-term rental entries. Jane Place filed a complaint with HUD to investigate the misuse of housing units.

The Committee reviewed our 2017 Policy Priorities: Healthy Homes, Equitable Transit Oriented Development, Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance Article 23, Market Conditions/Construction Costs, and Developer/Services Provider partnerships.

Homeownership Committee

The Homeownership Committee met in October to discuss the plan for the MLS Data from 2016. The data will be analyzed and compiled; the information gathered from the data will be used for education material, as well as shared for member use.

Nonprofit Roundtable

The Nonprofit Roundtable will reschedule the October meeting for early November. A letter regarding the Nonprofit Rebuild Pilot Program (NRPP) was drafted with the intentions of being sent to the LHC outlining challenges with the program, what changes can be implemented to improve the program, and what changes can be implemented to help the people whose homes were affected.

Rental Committee

The Rental Committee met in October to discuss LHC updates. The awards for 2017 9% LIHTC awards were released with one our partners, Providence Community Housing, receiving funds. Old Community Development Block Grant funds using resources with 4% bonds and/or credits are also available. The application is up and the deadline is December 1st.

Energy Efficiency for All Coalition

The Energy Efficiency for All Coalition has been meeting regularly and advancing a study on the energy efficiency of rental buildings in New Orleans. Entergy New Orleans released their quarterly energy smart savings report at the end of October. The Energy Smart Roundtables will be led by Green Coast Enterprises representatives. GC Enterprise representatives are also registering tenants and homeowners on WegoWise, a free energy benchmarking tool. GNOHA and other partner organizations joined the Entergy IRP as intervenors in the case. The coalition will also be meeting with HANO in November to discuss energy efficiency based utility alliance.

Section 8 Subcommittee

The Rental Committee has created a Section 8 subcommittee with HANO to further outreach and advocacy for both renters and landlords. GNOHA will soon be moving forward with recommendations to HANO through the Section 8 Subcommittee. GNOHA continues talks with HANO on how to best implement a small area market rent program that would enable voucher holders to secure housing in high-opportunity areas. GNOHA plans to connect HANO with neighborhood associations to also help recruit potential landlords.

Emergency Preparedness Committee

The Emergency Preparedness Committee did not meet this month, but are in the process of writing letters to representatives from national agencies to gain their support for a disaster housing pipeline. Emergencies tend to happen in areas with a high risk of flooding throughout the city from regular rain, so the Committee will add flood control and stormwater management to the list of concerns.

Capacity Building

The UNO PLUS Development Finance Certificate Program has received the CEA from the City of New Orleans. GNOHA member organizations will be participating, along with the individuals and organizations identified by The Network for Economic Opportunities. Classes began November 2. The Capacity Building Calendar is complete, but the search for more capacity building opportunities is ongoing.

Shared Solutions Initiative

GNOHA is working with trepwise, an impact consulting firm that works to build capacity for organizations and individuals. The primary uses of the shared solutions model are for financial needs (bookkeeping, development finance, construction management, IT, software purchases, and client management services). In October, GNOHA and trepwise held a "deep-dive" meeting in which stakeholding organizations discussed in detail some top priorities for shared services. Emerging focuses are: annual audit/tax prep, website design and maintenance, and creating marketing collateral/messaging.

Louisiana Homebuyer Education Collaborative

The Collaborative will reschedule the Quarterly Meeting from October for November. The 2018-2019 LHEC Application Cycle has ended October 31st. The Review Team will convene to review any new applications received to determine new organizations' placement on the list. Any organization currently on the certified agency list will reapply for their good standing status during the 2019-2018 Application Cycle next year.

HUD released the examination schedule for housing counselor certification for 2017; the announcement proclaims the start of the HUD Certified Housing Counselor Examination will be on August 01, 2017. Registration for the Examination will not be open until August 01, 2017. The Collaborative will be creating group to support its members in completing the new certification requirements.

Outreach and Advocacy Committee (Put Housing First)

In October, GNOHA met with the AARP, the Power Coalition, and the Fairgrounds Triangle Neighborhood Association to plan the following upcoming run-off forums, and contribute questions regarding affordable housing issues:

- WWL TV's New Orleans Mayoral Forum 10/30/17
- The Power Coalition People's Agenda Candidate Forum 11/7/2017
- People First! Power of the People Mayoral Town Hall 11/11/2017

The Put Housing First team drafted an additional candidate questionnaire for the State Treasurer, Mayoral, and City Council run-off elections. Once completed, the candidates will be issued an adjusted score that will incorporate both their initial scores, and the points they earn from their new questionnaire answers. A new scorecard will be published before the November 18 election day.

HousingNOLA Initiatives

HousingNOLA Leadership Board

There was no meeting in October, and the next meeting is happening on November 20th at 12:30pm.

HousingNOLA Community Review Team

This committee did not meet in October and our next meeting is to be determined, likely in the beginning of 2018.

Louisiana Housing Trust Fund Initiative

The Trust Fund Steering Committee continues to work on securing a dedicated revenue source for the state's housing trust fund. Committee members are exploring options that could involve escrow interest and legislation in the 2018 session.

Workforce Housing Council

The Workforce Housing Council continues to work on city planning changes to the city's Master Plan by increasing density in neighborhoods with a large amount of jobs in the service industry. The Smart Housing Mix will allow for mixed-income neighborhoods around job corridors so those working in the service industry can continue to work nearby to their jobs in hotels, restaurants, etc. at an affordable rate. The plan also calls for better public transportation within 30 minutes of job corridors so those who work in the service industry can easily get to work each day.

Smart Housing Mix Tiger Team

The Smart Housing Mix Tiger Team did not meet in October, and the administration is studying the economics of what the City can require of developers – and in which areas of the city - while still ensuring that development can be profitable and competitive with surrounding jurisdictions.

Assessor Working Group

The full Assessor's Working Group did not meet in October. For the November meeting, the members will discuss developing a proposal for additional property tax relief for low-income homeowners facing increases in property assessments based on how long they have lived in their home and their income.

Lenders Roundtable

The Lenders Roundtable did not hold a meeting in October, but will have one in November to discuss the structure and presentation of the data compiled to project the housing development funding gap over the next five years. Data was provided outlining the city's commitment for 7,500 units; it is projected that 10,952 units needed for <80% AMI renters. The Lenders Roundtable will discuss the investment opportunities for projects that currently have some public investment but lack the private capital necessary to complete the units. The Lenders Roundtable plans to host a finance summit later this year.

Insurance Task Force

The Insurance Task Force held a small meeting in October. The committee discussed the policy recommendations for the reauthorization of the National Flood Insurance Program, including reinstating Executive Order 13690. In late October, an agreement was reached between House Leadership and Chairman Hensarling to move the House package forward to reauthorize NFIP for 5 years. The concessions secured by House Majority Whip Steve Scalise put the bill in a much more positive posture, including: Protections for Grandfathering and Changes to Treatment of Repetitive Loss Properties; Prioritization of Mitigation Dollars; and Excessive Lifetime Claims (increases the threshold for properties to be classified as those with excessive lifetime claims to mean any property that exceeds three times the amount of the replacement value of the structure). The Task Force will discuss the next steps involving a survey that is being created for homeowners and developers, in the hopes that these survey results will give a foundation for policy recommendations that can be brought to the commissioner.

Healthy Homes Initiative

The Healthy Homes Initiative working group has recently developed a new work plan with the help of a national group, the Green and Healthy Homes Initiative, and EEFA partner Philip Henderson of the National Resources Defense Council. Under the new plan, HousingNOLA will partner with a local hospital system to pilot a preventative health program. The working group will be meeting with an Ochsner Hospital representative in mid-November to move the program forward.

Initial steps for the Healthy Home Initiative were outlined, and the Committee will have a meeting mid-November with a representative from Ochsner Hospital. HousingNOLA interns are researching construction costs, as well as looking into service providers through ConnectNOLA. The Committee continues to seek changes to the City's Master Plan. The CPC made a full recommendation for transitioning certain high transit areas from mixed-use, low-density zones to mixed-use, medium-density zones. The Committee will be checking what processes are used nationally for stormwater management, while also working with the city to meet regulations.

People with Disabilities Working Group

A GNOHA/HousingNOLA representative will attend training in November hosted by United Way to learn more about bringing financial inclusion and disability awareness to New Orleans.

At Risk Youth Housing Needs Initiative

The At-Risk Youth Housing Needs group met in the beginning of October to discuss housing policy, and potential service gaps. The group decided on collecting information from the standard state report on homeless data from schools, Dillard's program on student housing, the Unity Point in Time Count, the assessment of 1 bed-room units for minimum wage pilot program with habitat house, Public Agency Partners 1 bedroom non-elderly restricted housing availability breakdown for New Orleans and Louisiana, the capacity of foster parenting and data from the Social Work Collaborative, Trauma Informed Collaborative, and Orleans Parish School Board to pull together a legislative agenda for 2018 session.

East Baton Rouge Parish Housing Plan

HousingNOLA is currently working with Mayor Darnell Waites of the City of Baker to develop a housing plan. Staff attended the City of Baker Open House which organized 50 community members to identify 6 key issue areas in their community for Recovery Planning. For each issue area, groups of 5-7 community members were formed. In these groups, the issues, goals and projects were identified and presented at the Open House. The 6 issue areas were, Natural & Cultural Resources, Education and Health & Social Services, Economic Development, Insurance & Mitigation, Community Planning, and Housing. Community members prioritized the projects using sticky dots to 'vote' underneath the categories of High, Medium, and Low.