



March 2018 Standing Committee & Initiative Reports

Public Policy Committee

The Public Policy Committee met in March to discuss Gas plant in New Orleans East and upcoming policy discussions. The CPC is still finalizing the Master Plan and we plan to convene around the finalized Master Plan which includes many recommendations made by HousingNOLA to increase Transit Oriented Development and prioritize the need for more affordable housing.

Short-Term Rental Subcommittee

The Short-Term Rental Subcommittee was formed and had two meetings in March. At the second council meeting in March, Council members Brosset, Cantrell, and Williams directed the CPC to conduct a study to determine if any modifications are warranted and to recommend changes that better guide the regulation of STR's. The subcommittee also agreed to advocate against to prevent Cantrell's soft cap resolution which will be heard on April 5th. GNOHA member, Jane Place Neighborhood Sustainability Initiative, released their report on short term rentals: Short-Term Rentals, Long-Term Impacts: The Corrosion of Housing Access and Affordability in New Orleans.

Homeownership Committee

The Homeownership Committee did not meet in March. At the next meeting, the Homeownership Committee will finalize the integration of the Energy Efficiency For All (EEFA) policy platforms into aspects of the Homeownership Committee platform. There is concern for homeowners who are cost-burdened due to high energy costs stemming from the older housing stock in the city. By making homes air-, water-, and light-tight, homeowners will see a reduction in their overall energy costs, which in turn reduces the cost of homeownership.

At the last meeting, the Committee also discussed an update regarding the reauthorization of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). The Committee also determined the best way to display an excel sheet of data about homes bought and sold during 2016. The data has been sorted and analyzed; the data will be presented to the public. The Committee will discuss the MLS data mock up at the next monthly meeting.

Nonprofit Roundtable

The Nonprofit Roundtable held a meeting in early March. A letter regarding the Nonprofit Rebuild Pilot Program (NRPP) and the Road Home program 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. The Roundtable will also

discuss a Shared Solution that tracks client contact and will help clients in finding the right resources for their needs.

Rental Committee

The Rental Committee met in March and the Urban Conservatory provided a presentation on their Front Yard Initiative, which is their response to excessive yard paving. Rampant front yard paving is a community issue that has broad and significant effects. The project works to improve New Orleans' safety, storm water management, and beauty. The Urban Conservatory's program reimburses eligible homeowners \$2.50 per square foot of paving removed, up to 500 square feet for a max of \$1,250. The program provides resources with the hope that it can drive up demand. GNOHA will work with the Urban Conservatory on outreach and ensure that our members are aware of the benefits this program offers. GNOHA will also work with the UC to see if the conversation can be expanded to include other types of developments. The Rental Committee also discussed the LHC's QAP, as it opened for comment in March.

Energy Efficiency for All Coalition

The EFFA Coalition hosted several calls throughout the month keeping energy efficiency as one of GNOHA's top priorities. Early in the month, the coalition was working to combat Entergy proposed Gas Plant in New Orleans East. However, when the full Council voted on the Gas Plant, Cm. Guidry was the only vote in opposition to the plant after hours of community members speaking in opposition to it. Despite this blow, GNOHA and EFFA continued their work, helping the city with outreach for their Downtown Energy Challenge, a challenge design to get the downtown area more energy efficient. Members of the coalition helped and participated in the Energy Benchmarking Symposium held by the city. GNOHA is also participating in the Network for Energy, Water and Health in Affordable Buildings calls held throughout the month. March's call was focused on Louisiana and North Carolina and their energy efficiency work. The coalition is also in the final stages of report to be release by GNOHA in April laying out the benefits of energy efficiency in New Orleans.

Section 8 Subcommittee

The Section 8 subcommittee did not meet this month, but GNOHA was able to have a meeting with members of the Section 8 Resident Council. While meeting with the leadership, we discussed issues that the residents have with the program. GNOHA drafted an email with suggestions from the Residential Council and Section 8 subcommittee with plans to send to HANO in April.

Emergency Preparedness Committee

The Emergency Preparedness Committee did not meet in March but plans to begin meeting again April to prepare for the coming Hurricane Season. While not formally meeting, the committee continues to participate in the National Disaster Housing Recovery Coalition calls. We learned that HUD is working on streamlining the national investment in mitigation recovery. They have established a taskforce to work on a strategy and was open for public comment. The

taskforce is seeking to create incentives for cross contribution to long term risk reduction. They expect to have 6 outcomes if successful: improved coordination, increased investment, shared fiscal responsibility, access to data, risk-informed communication, and resilient built environments. GNOHA also participates in the working group calls around homelessness and Puerto Rico's response to Hurricane Maria.

Capacity Building

GNOHA continues to build capacity with organizations across the state through the statewide housing alliance network. The search for more capacity building opportunities is ongoing in order to create a robust calendar of capacity building opportunities for our partners. The first cohort of the Community Development Finance program at UNO presented their project pitches at their last class on Tuesday, March 20th.

Shared Solutions Initiative

GNOHA continues to gauge interest in the shared solutions initiative, receiving feedback from a core group of organizations. The top three categories of interest remain as financial services, graphic design services, and tax credit education. GNOHA and trepwise is in the process of compiling a preferred vendor list for these services, vetting vendors based on quality of work, pricing, and ability to accommodate to our members' general needs.

GNOHA and trepwise worked with Annie Cambria to research and curate a professional development workshop series on tax credits for the review of shared solutions participants. Interest in this series is being fielded and the initial workshop in the series will be held at the April 9 GNOHA Monthly Meeting.

GNOHA is also researching and curating professional development opportunities in the areas of finance management, marketing, and donor relations/fundraising that are being offered by local organizations and will continue to share these opportunities with shared solutions participants.

Louisiana Homebuyer Education Collaborative

The Collaborative will hold the next Quarterly Meeting in April. The LHEC will discuss the upcoming study sessions for the HUD certification test for all homebuyer education counselors. HUD released the examination schedule for housing counselor certification for 2017; the announcement proclaimed the start of the HUD Certified Housing Counselor Examination will be on August 01, 2017. The Collaborative members will finalize the study plan, and commit to a schedule of study sessions for the summer. Capital One has agreed to provide staff support for the study group.

Outreach and Advocacy Committee (Put Housing First)

At its last regular meeting in February, the City Council approved the Riverfront Overlay without the affordability requirement. The ordinance would allow for denser developments along the riverfront, and it was originally intended to have 10% of the units be affordable. GNOHA sent out a Call to Action in an effort to get the Mayor to veto the decision. While Mayor Mitch Landrieu opposed the New Orleans City Council decision not to require affordable housing, he decided not to veto the matter.

On Wednesday, February 21, the platform was distributed to candidates with responses due back to GNOHA by Friday, March 2nd. Throughout the week of March 5 - 9, responsive candidates were asked to participate in an in-depth interview with GNOHA representatives to discuss their survey answers and further explain their positions on the items listed in the platform. GNOHA launched a media campaign in partnership with Crescent City Community Land Trust including a press release, radio ad buys, 2,000 report card mail-outs to likely voters between the ages of 45-65, and social media ad buys reaching 20,000 people on Facebook.

Royce Duplessis, Grade **91% A**
Eldon Delloyd "El" Anderson, Grade **82% B**
Dan Faust, Grade **70% C**
Kenny Bordes, Grade **0% F***

*Candidate did not respond.

With the support of the Crescent City Community Land Trust, the scorecard results were advertised on multiple platforms, including radio, television, and social media.

GNOHA also sent out a Calls to Action for Senate Bill 262 and House Bill 455. HB 455 provides for requirements and authorizations of the state fire marshal and owners with respect to short-term rental dwellings. With the passage of this bill for short-term rentals, we hope to improve housing stability, affordability, and quality while also generating greater environmental, economic, and health benefits for the occupant, owner, local community in our city and state.

HousingNOLA Initiatives

HousingNOLA Leadership Board

The Leadership Board met on March 21st where members heard updates on the Put Housing First Campaign. The meeting also briefly covered the Put Housing First legislative priorities, which includes not reversing the Justice Reinvestment Initiative and securing a dedicated revenue source for state housing trust fund through our Housing Louisiana activities. The full list of legislative priorities will be discussed in the April 2nd Public Policy Meeting and the Leadership Board will be invited to participate.

Community Engagement Working Group

The Community Engagement Working group did not meet in March. The group is working with the Community Review Team to identify a new chair for the Community Engagement Working Group.

Community Review Team

The Community Review Team did not meet in March. The next meeting will be held in April and will launch HousingNOLA's neighborhood plans.

Data Working Group

The Data Working group did not meet in March but will begin work on the mid-year production report and integrating the HousingNOLA typology with the Market Value Analysis.

Workforce Housing Council

The Workforce Housing Council met in March to further discuss how to move forward on the relevant action items. Participants in the group were tasked with various assignments to engage organizations that work closely with the New Orleans workforce so they may be represented at future Workforce Housing Council meetings. The group also discussed creating a survey to circulate among workforce employers to gauge their understanding of their workers' needs.

Smart Housing Mix Tiger Team

At the start of the legislative session, we learned of Senate Bill 462 seeks to preclude the possibility of mandatory inclusionary zoning by changing the wording from "inclusionary zoning" to "voluntary economic incentive policies." Filed by Jefferson Parish State Senator Martini, the bill will impact the entire state.

Assessors Working Group

The Assessors Working Group continues to reviewing various models of property tax abatement solutions and is closely monitoring several bills that have the potential to impact tax rates for homeowners who are struggling to increased assessed values caused by gentrification.

Lenders Roundtable

The Lenders Roundtable held a meeting regarding the PRO Neighborhoods grant. The team will assemble the application for the April deadline. The Roundtable held a strategy session with our appointed TA, Michael Swack, to discuss roles and responsibilities of all partners involved in this grant. Michael Swack, a national expert in community finance solutions, has been assisting us in our efforts to secure funding through for housing through the Lenders Roundtable. The financial investment needed to achieve this goal is the missing piece to solve the affordable housing problem in our city. In order to assist us, Swack interviewed developers and other allied

partners to craft a well-rounded view of the lending situation we face in New Orleans. The group will meet again after the application for the grant has been submitted.

Insurance Task Force

The Insurance Task Force did not meet in March. The committee will continue to follow the current status of the reauthorization of the National Flood Insurance Program; GNOHA has signed a Call to Action sent out urging supporters to contact their congressional representative to vote 'Yes' on the continuing resolution in order to keep the flood insurance program authorized. The Call to Action also urged everyone to call their Senators to give their support of the Continuing Resolution, and to complete a speedy, multi-year reauthorization of the NFIP that preserves affordability, increases opportunities for community and individual mitigation, improves the mapping process, and increases program participation.

At the next meeting, the Task Force will discuss the next steps involving the survey that was 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

We are in the process of further developing our work plan with the help of a national group, the Green and Healthy Homes Initiative, and our EEFA partner Philip Henderson of the National Resources Defense Council. Under the plan, we would partner with a local hospital system to pilot a preventative health program. We are partnering with the Louisiana Public Health Institute and Ochsner to better strategize the work plan. HousingNOLA is also working with SDOH Task Force, which focuses on the social determinants of health, such as education and healthcare. Because they meet quarterly, it was decided that there will be two subcommittees meeting monthly focused on education and healthcare. HousingNOLA is also working with the Louisiana Healthy Homes and Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (LHHCLPPP). The program provides program funding, public and professional education, public health lead investigations, case management, data collection and analysis. The program addresses the needs of lead-poisoned children from birth through 72 months of age. LHHCLPPP just recently received a grant from HUD to fully fund some of their lead abatement programs. We are in the early stages of working with them and HANO on outreach and providing assistance to those in need.

Housing for People with Disabilities Working Group

We are continuing our work with the National Disabilities Institute's working group to assist with the housing side of financial inclusion. The working group is finishing up work around a

resource map of New Orleans to assist people with disabilities in our region. However, the call for March was postponed until April. The Initiative also continues to work with the Advocacy Center of Louisiana and their new policy team to tackle a range of housing issues for people with disabilities.

At Risk Youth Housing Needs Initiative

The At Risk Youth Housing Needs Initiative did not meet in March.

New Orleans ReEntry/LAPRI Housing Committee

The Reentry Housing Task Force did not meet in March. The group will reconvene in April to further discuss a transitional housing network. The operators of said network will meet to develop intake forms and other necessary documents as we create an overarching standard of practice for all branches of the network.

LGBTQ+ Task Force

The LGBTQ+ Task Force is still planning their festival to reach out to LGBTQ+ folks who are experiencing homelessness. Plans include having vendors and services available for free for folks to utilize during the festival, as well as food and drink. Organizers will also be surveying participants during the festival to gather more information from attendees about their experiences as an LGBTQ+ identifying person who is experiencing homelessness.

AARP Age-Friendly Task Force/Aging-In-Place

The AARP Age-Friendly Task Force met in March. The group is working on an accessibility audit for OC Haley Boulevard with a Tulane grad student. Leaders of the group also met with Mayor-Elect Cantrell to discuss the possibility of having her designate New Orleans as an “age friendly” city. The group is also preparing to apply for the Livable Communities Grant and wants input from members to take part in that.

ConnectNOLA

HousingNOLA has been working with LAHousingSearch.org, a property listings website funded by the LHC, to promote the consistent listings of affordable housing opportunities on a centralized website. GNOHA has been fielding our developer members’ interest and experiences with the website to determine if it will benefit affordable housing developers, landlords, and renters. We hope to advocate that government subsidized housing be required to list on LAHousingSearch.org in order to make affordable housing opportunities more accessible to tenants.

Social Enterprise

The Baton Rouge housing plan will begin in March and HousingNOLA met with the Housing FIRST Alliance to refine the plan and amended timeline.

Housing Louisiana (Statewide Housing Alliance)

In March, the Louisiana Housing Trust Fund Initiative officially became Housing Louisiana. Housing Louisiana takes on the same roles as the Louisiana Housing Trust Fund Initiative as well as being a network for the regional housing alliances throughout the state of Louisiana. The group has been discussing and preparing for the 2018 legislative session. The group is supporting the Put Housing Frist legislative agenda.