Howard County Housing Committee

Thursday, January 20th, 2022

 3:30 pm – 5:00 pm

**Attendees**: Dorothy Plantz, Donna Budway, Paula Manion, Pat Sylvester, Nikki Savoy, Diane Dressler, Cindy Parr, Melissa Gibson, Mark Dunham, Rich Thometz, Matthew Plantz, Katie Collins-Ihrke, Erin Ashinghurst, Nannette Livadas, Tim Wiens, Lauren Silverstone

1. Welcome

2. Our Stomping Ground; working with local developers in VA

Donna Budway, Director of Programming & Community Outreach

Paula Manion, Executive Director

a) Paula met with Jillian Copeland from Mainstreet Apartments in 2019 to discuss building an inclusive community.

b) OSG acquired set asides for units at 6 properties in Northern VA.

c) Units are specifically set aside for individuals with IDD, because of a Virginia settlement agreement with DOJ.

d) There is an emphasis on engaging individuals in employment.

e) They are engaging with developers and providing social engagement at these locations.

f) Properties are located near amenities such as parks and public transportation.

g) Pathways to an OSG community are through a Settlement Agreement set aside or an Affordable Housing eligibility.

h) The program follows a Housing First Model. Housing is the first priority then wraparound supports are in place.

i) Some units have Smart Home features.

j) They offer many programs for residents.

k) They plan to fund a research effort to explore their impact on their participant pool.

l) Diane inquired how units are being made affordable for individuals with IDD. OSG advised that vouchers may be available for their different locations.

m) Paula discussed concerns about what happens to individuals with IDD when their caregivers pass away.

n) Katie discussed the importance of affordable housing for individuals with any type of disability.

3. Working with Housing Developers

Rich Thometz, local developer in Howard County

 a) Rich discussed his Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) and Moderately Priced Dwelling Unit (MPDU) developments.

b) His company also provides weatherization and energy efficient improvements to low-income households.

c) Rich discussed trying to get impact fees waived such as parking and increasing density as ways to make rents more affordable

d) MIH discussed how to get in at the ground level of new developments to bake in amenities and affordability.

4. Patuxent Commons

a) Mark advised that the county is prepared to move forward with filing bills for funding. This will assist with the acquisition of site and obtaining a payment in lieu of taxes (PILOT).

b) It is expected to be a $35 million project.

c) Support for the project may be needed from committee members, to get support for needed County Council legislation.

5. Review of minutes from last meeting and updates

a) Review of November 16th Minutes

b) Tim discussed QAP which MIH commented on. The final draft has been completed. MIH’s recommendations were not included in the new draft. There are points in the QAP for universal design, however there is no written standard for universal design.

c) Diane discussed upcoming legislature regarding Tenants Rights and requiring approval for low-income housing development.

6. Talk about next steps.

1) Agenda/ speakers for next meeting

a) Diane suggested having a representative from The Kelsey and Miranda Darden of The MD Affordable Housing Coalition meet with the committee.

2. Next meeting

a) Invitation will be emailed for the next meeting on March 17th at 3:30 p.m.