



Baltimore City Housing Committee

**NOTES**

Monday April 11, 2022, 3:00 – 4:30

Zoom

**Present:** Diane Dressler, Adam Levine, Hugh Scoggins, Zelma Ortiz, Kris Logan (Service coordination Inc; served on Mayors commission previously), Sharonda Huffman, Chelsea Hayman, Ami Taubenfeld, Dianne Blevin, Kaitlin Krug, Stephanie Jones, Adam Levine, Lauren Silverstone, Tim Wiens, Terri Bradford

1. Welcome and Introductions
  - a. Tim described how the meeting would flow and introduced some new attendees.
2. Review of the Minutes of December 29, 2021
  - a. Attached to email. Follow up items will be shared during the meeting.
3. Seawall Development; Ami Taubenfeld & Tim Wiens
  - a. History
    - i. Seawall group is the same that did Teach for America housing, renovated Remington properties, renovated a lot of abandoned townhouses.
    - ii. Their current project is the Lexington market project.
    - iii. One of their missions is to help specific communities, not just make a profit.
  - b. Our Proposal
    - i. Is to collaborate to help provide housing for IDD.
    - ii. We asked them to set aside 15% for individuals with IDD, with 1/3 be fully accessible; all units would be accessible for those with HC voucher or qualify for DDA rental subsidy program.
      1. In order for this to work they would need about \$3,000,000 more.
    - iii. Seawall met with Mainstreet and Jillian Copeland.
      1. It seemed to go well.
  - c. Discussion by Committee
    - i. City of Baltimore has \$10,000,000 in ARPA funds to deal with the “blight” in Baltimore city.
      1. They were asked how they were going to use some of the money to help IDD. The City is open to ideas. Some committee members have asked for a meeting.
      2. Suggestion was made to create some talking points to help get people on the same page.
      3. Could we try to get a \$3-4 million equity grant to bridge the gap?



4. Collaboration with developers is important. If we can get this project collaboration with Seawall going, it could be a model for other developers going forward.
  - ii. Another suggested approach is to look at large apartment complexes across the state and convince them to offer some affordable apartments to individuals with IDD.
4. Baltimore City Disabilities Commission & MIH Housing Committee Collaboration
  - a. Affordable Housing work in the City
    - i. Sharonda Huffman
      1. Has been hired by MIH to be its' new director of Housing starting 5/9.
      2. MIH is collaborating with the Baltimore City mayor's disabilities commission.
      3. Commission on Disabilities will be more of a leader in setting policies.
      4. They plan to ask for added incentives for developers to set aside units for individuals with IDD. She also suggested helping cultivate legislation that help individuals with IDD with affordable housing by reaching out to legislators and commissioners.
    - b. Housing committee discussion
      - i. Members of the committee are excited with this collaboration!
    - c. Education of Transitioning Youth
      - i. Yojinde Paxton
        1. A commissioner who works with the public school system.
        2. Can help collaborate with the school system so that people are more aware of their options once they transition out of the school system.
    - d. Baltimore City Law Department
      - i. Adam Levine
        1. A commissioner and attorney, Adam handles land use issues.
        2. Adam follows state and city legislation for the disabilities committee.
        3. Adam is interested in collaborating on housing issues with MIH.
5. Affordable Housing Resources
  - a. Chelsea Hayman; MDOD
    - i. Knows of some mission driven developers in Baltimore City.
      1. Tim will follow up to get their contact information.
    - ii. She shared a program PowerPoint overview of HUD 811 & Weinberg Apartment Rental assistance programs.



1. May is the target start day to open the registry.
6. Future Agenda
    - a. Reach out to Alice Kennedy
    - b. Decide on elected officials once we see what developers we're focusing on.
  7. Next Meeting
    - a. June 13, 2022 3:00-4:30 pm (possibly in person)