

Asheville Affordable Housing Advisory Committee  
November 29, 2011  
Meeting Notes

Attending: Members: Brian Alexander, Allison Bond, Scott Dedman, David Dills, William Irby, Barber Melton, Lindsay Simerly. Council Member: Gordon Smith. Staff: Jeff Staudinger, Shannon Tuch, Randy Stallings, Rachel Winterburg. Community: Jeff Bachar (WNCAP)

Introductions: Jeff Staudinger, Community Development Director, called the meeting to order and offered to facilitate the first meeting of the committee. The offer was accepted. Members introduced themselves, provided background info on their reasons to volunteer for the committee.

Charge: The committee reviewed its charge from City Council. Members reflected on their sense of what the committee work plan would look like in light of the charge. This included:

- Develop an understanding of current housing trends and current affordable housing policy;
- Update existing plans to reflect current data and needs;
- Prioritize strategies;
- Incorporate the findings of the Affordable Housing Task Force into its work;
- Gather public opinion;
- Look at the economics of affordable housing for a range of incomes, and assess policies to help address the range of gaps;
- Address issues of families retaining their existing housing (for example, households on fixed incomes facing rising costs);
- How City policy interacts with forces outside the city;
- Assessing how changing markets influence priorities and viability of solutions;
- Assessing how population growth creates housing need;
- Updating the Housing Needs Assessment;
- Understanding the issues of scale in housing supply.

Members agreed they were not charged with assessing the viability of or finding for individual projects. Members were in agreement that conflicts of interests should be proactively identified.

Structure: Members agreed to choose a chair and a vice-chair with a couple months, have staff facilitate meetings until that time. Notes of the meeting proceedings will be kept by staff. The Committee will hold monthly meetings that will likely focus on specific issues for allow for in-depth discussions. The members are open to meeting in sub-committees. The Committee will report to the council's Housing and Community Development (HCD) Committee, and will work to schedule meetings two weeks before the HCD. Once chosen, the committee expects that its chair would regularly attend HCD meetings.

Next Meeting: January 5, 2012, 8 AM, fifth floor City Hall. The meeting agenda will focus on review of existing plans and policies.