

Fair Housing Minutes, 10-19-2017
Mimi Hollister, Scribe

Present: Frank Evans, Mark Podgur, Ann Cohen, Debra Larkin, Mimi Hollister
Guests: Judy Gates, Don Gardner, Lou Meyi

Minutes were accepted as read.

Report from Mark: Spoke with Avi Glazer. The unit at the Highlands is under agreement and looks good. Avi is happy to come to a meeting and **Mark will invite him to the November meeting.**

Frank spoke with Buck Grader who will set us up with Ted Moore some time. Buck is aware that Ted plans to develop the rest of the Highlands 40B project.

Report from Mimi: John McGinn is happy to make sure that town employees receive notice when affordable units come on the market. The notice now goes on the town website and there are posters that CHAPA provides that are posted around. Deb will consider putting posters on Housing Authority bulletin board.

All will look at the website to see if improvements need to be made and will report back to the next meeting.

Karl Renney's letter is in to the Selectmen and he just awaits an interview date.

Alex Finigan has agreed that life gets in the way just now and he should become an interested adjunct member, not a voting member. It was agreed that we should ask him to keep an eye on the website for us and make suggestions.

Social event with affordable residents: **Frank will check to be sure it does not need to be on town property.**

Agreed that the event should be a party, not a meeting. Harborlight has several locations for a party that could be inviting. Should be held in January on a Thursday evening. Perhaps open the invitation to others in town? Frank suggested, from experience elsewhere, that when asked what being in this affordable unit means to you, it opens the floodgates for good stories. **Ann, Frank and Lou will begin to create an invitation list and the wording.**

Public education ideas: A series of Reporter articles – Judy and Mimi will meet with Chris Stevens, the editor. Again, personal stories are better than dry reports of stats and surveys. Keep our eyes open for collaborative possibilities with Housing Authority, Eastern Bank, Sustainable Marblehead, and whomsoever else.

Lou attended a planning session with the School Committee for the Gerry, Coffin and Bell schools study. The key observation is that there will likely be town property available in the future that could provide affordable housing, either through a 40B project or some other way. We need to be alert to that possibility.

Next meeting: November 30

