

MINUTES, HOPE FOR HOMES, APRIL 14, 2023

Attending: Judy Gilow, Linda Soderstrom, Nancy Brown, Nick Larson, John Breske, Patrick Mitchener, Crystal Hegge, Marcia Ratliff, Kalene Engel, Tim Hunter, Rosemary Fagrelus, Marie Kovecsi

1. Marcia Ratliff (Engage Winona) introduced herself and a new project "Winona Area Kitchen Table" which will organize panels of citizens with lived experience to address areas of their concern. She had a handout which is not yet a public document. Welcome, Marcia, and thanks for the work that Engage Winona does in our community. We look forward to working together.

2. FUNDING/GRANT UPDATES:

a. Winona Community Foundation Grant (not awarded).

Nancy Brown explained that WCF does not generally provide the "first funds". We are eligible to revise and resubmit (due August 1).

b. MHP SRCG grant (no decision yet).

Rosemary explained that they typically fund a development, and our request is to fund our Local Housing Trust Fund (LHTF), which then funds renters, landlords, etc). We can use volunteer time as a match and Kalene volunteered to compile hours from meetings.

c. Community Living Infrastructure Grant (CLIG)

This grant comes through the State DHS and we are waiting to hear the grant application timeline. Funding is for 2 years. Tim talked to Karen Sanness (Winona County DHS Department Head) who will take this to the County Board when we do apply (should be June/July).

Questions arose— Linda mentioned a State budget release of 50M\$ for homeless prevention. Marie volunteered to work with Linda on this. Update: This is MN funding through FHPAP, Family Homeless Prevention and Assistance Program. Local funds are handled through SEMCAC grants. Last year's state allocation was 20.5 M\$ so thanks go to MHP and other groups that lobbied for the increase.

3. WINONA LOCAL HOUSING TRUST FUND UPDATE

Kalene explained that the Operating Agreement (modeled after Sioux Falls) is being revised by Nancy. Two agreements are being drafted— one to hold the funds with Winona Community Foundation and one on how we plan to operate the fund in a separate committee.

4. HOUSING SPECIALIST POSITIONS

Tim addressed this— the first applicant declined the position and HVMHC is continuing the search.

5. DISCUSSION ON ADDITIONAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Suggestions were to add someone from Commonwealth Property Management since they currently develop and manage the scattered sites supported by HVMHC. These sites have no real relation to our proposed sites but their success would be very helpful for us when working with local landlords. There is also the possibility that Commonwealth will have additional developments in our area.

ACTION: Tim will identify and send information on a contact person.

In addition, we discussed adding a Goodview contact. Dusty Liston is a CEDA (Community Economic Development) person who works with Goodview and several other County areas.

ACTION: Nick will forward her email to me.

Update: I met Dusty at the Winona County meeting to County Housing Study. She is very interested to work with us. Email at the end of these minutes.

6. INTERN UPDATE

(John was attending while riding the baseball team bus and had spotty connections.)

Kalene updated his work— the LHTF bro here, website and help with grant applications. Further ideas included a brochure on Scattered Sites, and work with the Housing Resource Specialist (to be hired by HVMHC). Thanks to John (and Kalene) for the good work.

7. MARKET/OUTREACH TO BUSINESS COMMUNITY

Action: Crystal will send the local landlord list to Marie and it will be sent out for committee updates.

We also discussed the possibility of developing a list of characteristics/agency contacts, etc to identify potential renters.

8. TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:

May 16, 2023, 1-3 pm, HVMHC "Understanding Housing Support", Megan Toney (HVMHC Housing Director). Need to invite our list of landlords as education about Housing Support programs.

9. FUTURE DATES:

Hope for Homes meeting (hybrid) May 12th, 10:00-11:30

MHP Housing Workshop— May dates cancelled and shifted to July 12-13. Hold these dates.
Training HVMHC May 16, 1-3 pm, "Understanding Housing Support".

ACTION STEPS:

email for Marcia Ratliff: engagewinona@gmail.com

email for Dusty Liston: liston@cedausa.com

Winona County Housing Study: Marie will continue to meet with this planning group.