

Hope for Homes Meeting Minutes
June 24, 2023 at 10:00 AM at Engage Winona and online

Present: Judy Gilow, Rosemary Fagrelus, Linda Soderstrom, Marie Kovecsi, Marcia Ratliff, Nick Larson, Crystal Hegge, Tim Hunter, Danielle Walther, Kalene Engel

1. **Welcome & Introductions**

2. **Update on Grants:**

- a. **Winona Community Foundation:** We did not receive the grant but were encouraged to reapply. We learned that WCF does not like to be the first funder for a project.
- b. **Strengthening Rural Communities Grant:** We were not awarded the SRCG Grant either. The reasons provided were that our activities would not be completed in 12 months and the volunteer hours for our intern would not qualify for in-kind. Discussion was held on whether and when we are eligible to reapply. A possible use of the funds would be to rehab housing units for the scattered sites project. Rosemary would like MHP to speak with our group about this at the Institute; hopefully they can provide some parameters for the award so we do not have to guess at what they will fund.
- c. **Community Living Infrastructure Grant:** The RFP was supposed to be released already but hasn't. Tim has emailed DHS. Winona County needs to be the applicant and Tim has made arrangements with Karen Sanness for the County to apply.

3. **Scattered Sites Project:** Lisa Lind has been hired as the Housing Resource Specialist and starts on July 10th. She will be helping people obtain the professional statement of need and do housing retention plans. HVMHC recently took over four high priority homeless (HPH) beds at Water's Edge; they already are providing services for the persons with disabilities (PWD) beds. Megan Toney is overseeing the housing offered by HVMHC, which includes a range of options (scattered sites, board and lodge, 24/7 services. [Click here](#) to watch the Housing Supports Webinar that was presented as part of the WRAP+ Training Series: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IbEEMSik1no>. The plan is to have one point of entry at HVMHC for housing and then help people get the housing that best meets their needs.

4. **Housing Institute Attendees for the Housing Institute on July 12 (4-8pm) and July 13 (9-3pm):**

- a. Can attend both days: Judy, Crystal, Marie and Tim
- b. Can attend Wed and Thursday til noon: Nick
- c. Thursday only; but would give up seat to someone else and participate online: Kalene
- d. Not sure: Danielle (Walther) and Lisa (Lind)
- e. Online: Linda

5. **Workshop Homework:** John Breske (intern) did a draft of our development team worksheet, which was modified from the template because our project does not fit the "mold." Tim will make revisions prior to the institute.

6. **Hope for Homes Housing Trust Fund:**

- a. Fund Agreement/Operating Agreement: The Fund Agreement with Winona Community Foundation was drafted/approved a few months ago. A draft Operating Agreement was submitted as part of the grant applications.
 - b. Other Work Completed: John B. created a draft website, a brochure and proposed letter to donors (plus a proposed letter to prospective landlords). He also reviewed and revised our concept papers.
7. **List of Potential Landlords**: At the last HI, the team generated a list of approximately 7 landlords. Crystal compiled the list and will e-mail it to Kalene for distribution with the minutes.
8. **Member Updates**:
- a. Dusty Liston of CEDA is assisting with the Winona County Housing Study. There is a survey available online at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/VK92QWT>. Members were encouraged to take the survey and utilize the comments section as needed to address issues/concerns that are not otherwise asked about in the main survey. The EDA webpage with notes and explanation of Housing Study can be found here: <https://www.co.winona.mn.us/379/Economic-Development>
 - b. Linda is interested in starting a local chapter of MICAH (Metropolitan Interfaith Council on Affordable Housing), including a speaker's bureau who could tell their housing stories at the state legislature.
 - c. Marcia gave an update on the Kitchen Table Project. Dan Wilson was hired and has been interviewing people. A cohort of 15 community members with lived experience are having their first "kitchen table gathering" tomorrow. The goal is to provide leadership development so the cohort can begin to advocate and build solutions. The Winona cohort is connected to cohorts in Duluth and the Twin Cities area. All cohorts will come together next year to advance some policy level changes.
9. **Next Meeting**: TBA

Meeting adjourned: 11:00 p.m.
Minutes by Kalene Engel

Attachments:

- Concept paper on Winona County Local Housing Trust Fund
- Concept paper on Winona County Scattered Sites Supportive Housing
- Brochure on Local Housing Trust Fund
- Hope for Homes Landlord List
- Draft letter to prospective donors of LHTF
- Draft letter to prospective landlords of SS Program
- Draft chart of players (homework for the Housing Institute)
- 10 Questions to Ask Donors about LHTF (previous homework for Housing Institute)

- Draft WCF Special Purpose Fund Agreement for LHTF
- Draft Operating Agreement for LHTF

Links:

- Registration link for July 12th & 13th Housing Institute: **[Register HERE](#)**
- Housing Supports Webinar that was presented as part of the WRAP+ Training Series:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IbEEMSik1no>
- EDA webpage with notes and explanation of Housing Study: <https://www.co.winona.mn.us/379/Economic-Development>
- Winona County Housing Study Survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/VK92QWT>
- Draft Local Housing Trust Fund Website (created by John Breske):
<https://winonahopeforhomes.wixsite.com/winona-county-local>
- Link to Google Drive for Housing Institute:
https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1i3CHnB415gvzMeZv3_6WsX4dxdwZZJpu
- Link to CJCC webpage on Hope for Homes: <https://winonacountycjcc.org/hope-for-homes/>
- Engage Winona “Winona Area Kitchen Table” webpage:
<https://www.engagewinona.org/winona-kitchen-table>
- MICAH Link: <https://www.micah.org/>