



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

MINUTES

March 18, 2024

12:00 p.m.

Hybrid – Santiam Room

Approved: May 21, 2024

Call to Order

Chair Courtney Stubbs called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

Roll Call

Members present: Alex Johnson II, Jim Cole, Larry Timm, Bessie Johnson, Emma Deane, Courtney Stubbs, John Robledo, Skylar Bailey, Robyn Davis

Members absent: Ron Green (excused)

Approval of Minutes:

12:00 p.m.

Motion: Commissioner Alex Johnson II moved to approve the March 4, 2024, minutes as presented. Commissioner Jim Cole seconded the motion, which passed 7-0. Commissioners Bailey and Robledo arrived at 12:01 p.m.

Scheduled Business:

12:02 p.m.

- Fair Housing Impediments Goals and Actions

Planner II Beth Frelander shared the revised goals and impediments* based on the March 4, 2024, discussion with the Commission.

Commissioner Timm suggested under lack of affordable housing a change in language that instead of "if possible" to say, "subject to available funding and competing applications". Others suggested "eligible" applications instead of "competing", commissioners supported these changes.

Staff added an additional goal to encourage affordable housing distribution throughout the city with the associated action of continuing to pursue and identify Climate-friendly areas. Catlin noted they are looking to reduce barriers to other housing types and potential zoning changes.

Commissioner Davis emphasized that a variety of forms of communication are important, as not all are comfortable accessing resources electronically. Commissioner Deane agreed it was important not to just have it on social media or websites but use a variety of formats to empower individuals to know their rights in respect to housing as application processes for housing don't protect people.

Catlin agreed that the CBDG program should encourage applicants to provide hard copy materials and ensure Fair Housing materials are posted. Commissioner Cole agreed that applicants should be proactive in ensuring they are serving people across the board and that their processes don't have bias.

Staff agreed to revise the goals to include physical barriers, non-electronic technology users, grievance procedures as discussed.

Staff noted that the next steps are to bring the drafted goals back out to the community for comment to ensure that they have captured the issue. Commissioner Johnson II volunteered to set up town halls in the senior communities in each of the three Wards to solicit feedback.

Commissioners discussed asking the mayor and city councilors to be involved, as well as other potential opportunities to discuss changes coming to the city.

Business from the Public

12:46 p.m.

None

Business from the Commission

12:46 p.m.

Commissioner Davis asked about the new sources of funding for affordable housing efforts from the Legislature to which Catlin explained the processes.

Commissioner Johnson II shared some comments he received at an event with the Director of Housing as well as some discussion he heard at a Benton County Legislative Breakfast regarding creating a housing affordability task force. He was surprised at the level of reluctance to participate in the effort. Catlin offered it may be more viewed as a city rather than county service issue.

Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is scheduled for April 16, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

Adjournment

Chair Stubbs adjourned the meeting at 12:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Reviewed by,

Signature on file

Signature on file

Susan Muniz
Recorder

Beth Frelander
Planner II

*Documents discussed at the meeting that are not in the agenda packet are archived in the record. The documents are available by emailing cdaa@albanyoregon.gov.