



City of Ann Arbor

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Ann Arbor, MI 48104
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Action Minutes

Housing and Human Services Advisory Board

Thursday, October 12, 2017

6:30 PM

Washtenaw County Building, 200 N.
Main St., Lower level conference room

CONVENE MEETING

Thaddeus Jabzanka, Chairperson, convened meeting at 6:39pm

PUBLIC COMMENT

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A. Carlisle moved to approve agenda; G. Pratt seconded. Motion passed unanimously

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approved

NEW BUSINESS

A MEMBERSHIP REVIEW

T. Gillotti: Here is our official roster and membership dates. We have space for a non-profit representative as well as a youth representative.

A. Foster: I reached out to a friend of mine at Neutral Zone, and they were wondering if they could come as a tandem with a youth rep from Ozone House. Is that okay?

T. Gillotti: I believe so.

A. Erickson: Is W. Leaf going to be able to serve next term?

B AFFIRMATIVELY FURTHERING FAIR HOUSING - PRESENTATION

T. Gillotti: This study was done to build off the 2015 study. Through this study, people learned that they may have been discriminated against. This presentation summarizes the data and shows our broader goals for the next 5 years. We were able to create neighborhood profiles, had almost 800 total participants, and had 8 focus groups. We looked at access to opportunity, segregation, and discrimination.

Schools: AAPS has students from higher income families and are from high cost of living areas. YPS is less proficient, can be a deterrent for homebuyers,

predominantly African-American, and generally have high poverty. The goals are to support growth by coordinating programs and services for youth, increase access to quality childcare, and create equitable county wide public education.

R. Sarri: We should consider changing choice system.

A. Foster: What is Washtenaw International Middle Academy doing to be a standout choice while it's considered YPS?

T. Gillotti: It is a diverse school, but it's geared to keep middle and higher income, often white, students in Ypsilanti.

A. Erickson: Also, charter schools could be a bigger problem.

A. Foster: Yeah, I saw that most charter schools in the county aren't in Ann Arbor.

Employment: There are more jobs in Ann Arbor and Pittsfield Township area and it is increasing. East side of Washtenaw County are going down with closing factories being key. Now, the focus is in higher tech and retail/service sector. It is difficult because tech work require more higher education while retail/sector pays low wages so the gap becomes bigger. Some goals are to identify skill gaps and connect people to them as well as exploring training programs from anchor institutions to recruit and train residents in high unemployment areas.

Board discusses other factors that are often connected to high unemployment and how to address the issue holistically.

Housing: In Ann Arbor, the rent, income, and demand is higher. This pushes lower income families into Ypsilanti where there is lower rent but also lower incomes. Almost 50% of committed affordable housing is in Ypsilanti and Ypsilanti Township. Vouchers are used mostly in Ypsilanti, particularly West Willow. Landlords like vouchers because it's safer short-term than mortgages. Ypsi has appeal because housing is more affordable. Southside Ypsilanti is mostly African-American where more of the affordable housing is.

A. Foster: Defend Affordable Ypsilanti is making a strong statement about the need for affordable housing in Ypsilanti, not just Ann Arbor.

S. Kailasapathy: City of Ann Arbor started "Ban the Box".

Discussion about issues with Ban the Box, and Best Practices.

T. Gillotti: Beyond Ban the Box, we're seeing a move to blind hiring where information that could signal race, age, and gender is removed from applications.

C COORDINATED FUNDING REVIEW SELECTIONS

M. Brown presents Coordinated Funding (CoFu) background and purpose. The process for the FY 2018-2020 funding cycle will begin with the Request for

Information (RFI) process in October 2017. That process will be completed in December 2017. The second process is the Request for Proposals for Program Operations funding, which will commence in January 2018 and conclude with board approvals of funding recommendations in May of 2018.

Regarding the recent Coordinated Funding evaluation - November 10 is the next coordinated forum for TCC group. The report is 100 pages long and the summary is 10 pages long.

S. Kailasapathy: Can you briefly touch on the evaluations and findings?

M. Brown: Evaluations go into 3 categories: good, mixed, and needs work. The sector leaders felt like the middle person between grantees and funders. There were also questions about transparency.

Board discusses what can be done to ensure fair and equal funding opportunities across all organizations in Washtenaw County.

D HHSAB/PLANNING COMMISSION AFFORDABLE HOUSING SUBCOMMITTEE

Greg Pratt noted that he has not been able to make the 9 a.m. meetings and asked for a replacement. D. Blanchard offered to attend. E. Pollack is also a backup.

E HHSAB AFFORDABLE HOUSING FUND POLICY COMMITTEE SUBCOMMITTEE

D. Blanchard: We met once and it's been good. So far, we've been brainstorming for the direction of this subcommittee and where our relationships are. We are trying to find ways to add into Housing Trust Fund through better coordinating and leveraging use of our money.

CITY COUNCIL (MEMBER UPDATE)

S. Kailasapathy: The Coalition Against White Supremacy put up videos on the issue at the Blake Transit Center where the police used improper force to subdue a young African American teenager. People were very upset and filled with anxiety due to this. We need civilian oversight of the police to have more checks and balances. Right now, there is no transparency and even when the Human Rights Commission asked for updates, we were given nothing.

A. Foster: Only 12 states have training for police to work with teenagers and I believe Ann Arbor Police should have this training as well.

S. Kailapathy: The City Council can try to do that. We need more de-escalating measures.

PUBLIC COMMENT

CLOSED SESSION

R. Sarri moved to Adjourn; G. Pratt seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:00pm

ADJOURNMENT

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