

Jackson County Housing Committee

Minutes

January 28, 2019

9:00 a.m.

Conference Room A-227, Justice and Administration Center

Members	Present	Absent	Members	Present	Absent
Michael Poston	X		Patsy Davis	X	
Heather Baker	X		Dan Harbaugh		X
Rich Price	X				

Staff Present

Caroline Edmonds

Others Present

Amy Murphy-Nugen- WCU

Call to Order

The meeting of the Jackson County Housing Committee was called to order at 9:04 a.m.

Approval of the Agenda

With no additions to the agenda, Rich Price made a motion to approve the agenda. Michael Poston seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Approval of the Minutes

Heather Baker made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Rich Price seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Housing Trust Fund Draft

The Housing Committee reviewed the proposed approval and application processes for the Housing Trust Fund draft. There was discussion about non-profit developers needing to be treated the same as for-profit developers, and the Town of Waynesville has a good example of this in their Affordable Housing Policy.

The need to include a conflict of interest statement within the Housing Trust Fund document was discussed. Planning staff will bring example statements to the next meeting for review.

The Housing Committee discussed the possibility of expanding the Committee to include individuals who deal with housing in the County on a regular basis. New Committee members would include a representative from social services, Western Carolina University, Harris Regional Hospital, Southwestern Community College, the Eastern Band of the Cherokee Indians, a representative from the Center for Domestic Peace, and the Community Table. The process for expanding the Committee would be as follows: Recommend the individuals to the Jackson County Board of Commissioners and then get the appointments.

Impediments to Fair Housing Review

An impediment identified at both Fair Housing Stakeholder meetings, is the need for education on Fair Housing laws, specifically with local landlords. The Committee discussed the possibility of developing a central place/database of landlords, their contact information and they could post their available units. Information on Fair Housing laws would be included on the database/website as well as information for tenants on who to contact if they have a complaint regarding fair housing discrimination.

The Committee discussed the need to have the identified impediments included in the Fair Housing Survey that is going to be distributed in the community. Planning staff will develop the survey and email it to the Committee for their review and comment.


Adjournment

Heather Baker made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:55 a.m. Rich Price seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,



Caroline Edmonds
Housing Committee Staff Member



Michael Poston
Housing Committee Chair