

Central Florida Commission on Homelessness

Housing Committee Meeting Minutes

July 8, 2008 (3:30 p.m.)

Heart of Florida United Way
Dr. Nelson Ying Center, Orlando, FL

Members Present:

Chairman Steve Kodsi, Executive Director, Raymond Larsen; Robert Ansley, Mitchell Glasser, Andy Rosario, Brent Trotter and Mary Davis for Gene Daniels

Members Absent: Carmen Dominguez, Paul P. Partyka and Michael Wenger

Discussion Facilitator: Gary Langford-Northhighland

I. Welcome and Introductions

- Chairman Steve Kodsi welcomed all in attendance and introduced newly appointed Executive Director, Raymond Larson to the Committee. Larson expressed his interest in being part of the Commission and committee is to end homelessness in this community, which he calls his home. Larson also requested member's assistance in informing him about who he needs to meet in order to start impacting areas in our community, and reach the Commission's goals.
- Chairman Steve Kodsi officially called the meeting to order at 3:58 p.m.

II. Approval of Minutes of Meeting June 24, 2008

Chairman Kodsi said that due to lack of time, the minutes will not be reviewed during today's meeting.

III. Continuation - Discussion on Housing Initiatives

- Group discussed issues on where the Committee stands in terms of transitional vs. permanent housing. Gary Langford provided copies of updated plan on this matter.
- Chairman Steve Kodsi and Andy Rosario expressed that there is a need to focus on obtaining real estate; beds, roofs, etc.
- Mitchell Glasser said that the Committee must not forget about operating dollars needed to run a facility. He also mentioned that there is a Developer (CED) that donates buildings to an entity that can run transitional housing, but overall, there is a need to find dollars to operate a facility and to provide rental assistance, case management, etc. Larson expressed that the Committee needs to bring concrete products to the Commission with "numbers".
- Kodsi said that it is also well known that there is a shortage of emergency and 24hr. drop off shops, and that the Committee needs to prioritize and decide what it needs to work on.

- Robert Ansley said that the Committee's goal is to find 800 emergency beds, 1,425 transitional housing and 700 permanent housing.
- Trotter said that he understands that it is remarkable what the Committee has done so far.
- Moving the conversation forward, Ray Larsen suggested the Committee go back to discuss the plan/metrics previously provided by Northhighland, Gary Langford. Updates were recommended and will be incorporated into the plan. Updated plan to be discussed during next meeting of Tuesday, July 22, 2008 at 3:30 p.m. at Heart of Florida United Way.

IV. Other Business

- Invitation letter from Orlando Union Rescue Mission was distributed among those present. The same depicts the "One Homeless Night" event to be held on September 19, 2008, starting at 8:00 p.m. Executive Director, Raymond Larsen has expressed his intention to attend the same on behalf of the Commission. For further details, please refer to the invitation and/or contact Amanda Fewless at Orlando Union Rescue Mission to RSVP (407) 472-0634.
- Updated Housing Committee Contact List (draft form) was distributed during meeting.

V. Adjournment

- There being no further business before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m. Executive Director, Ray Larsen thanked all for their participation.

VI. Meeting Schedule

- Next meeting will occur on Tuesday, July 22, 2008 at 3:30 p.m. at Heart of Florida United Way (Jill Klemm room).