

Lake County Illinois

*Lake County Courthouse and Administrative Complex
18 N. County Street
Waukegan, IL 60085-4351*



Minutes Report - Final

Wednesday, April 10, 2024

3:30 PM

DOT Conference Rm - 600 W Winchester Rd, Libertyville, IL 60048

Housing and Community Development Commission

1. Roll Call

Chair Rose called the meeting to order at 3:45 pm.

Guests: Julie Polszakiewicz and Jim Carris with Carris for Congress

Guests via Zoom: Tom Ochs, Lee Ramirez with ElderCare Lake County, Cynthia Jackson with the City of Waukegan, and Rob Anthony with Community Partners for Affordable Housing (CPAH)

Staff: Eric Waggoner, Brenda O'Connell, Dominic Strezo, Eric Tellez, Elizabeth Nelson, Pamela Jeffries, and Danielle White.

Present 9 - Mary Ross Cunningham, Kathleen O'Connor, Linda Pedersen, Janet Swartz, Billy McKinney, Bethany Williams, Ray Rose, Michael Knight and Stephanie Victor

Absent 1 - Angelo Kyle

Excused 9 - Mary Dominiak, Sandy Hart, Dan Venturi, Anne Flanigan Bassi, Michael Meehan, Gina Roberts, Paras Parekh, Marah Altenberg and Marc Jones

2. Approval of Minutes

2.1 [24-0483](#)

Approval of Minutes March, 13 2024.

Attachments: [2024-03-13 HCDC Minutes Draft.pdf](#)

approval of minutes

Aye 9 - Commissioner Ross Cunningham, Commissioner O'Connor, Vice Chair Pedersen, Commissioner Swartz, Commissioner McKinney, Commissioner Williams, Chair Rose, Commissioner Knight and Commissioner Victor

Absent 1 - Commissioner Kyle

3. Chair's Remarks

Chair Rose thanked Brenda O'Connell for her service to the county and offered congratulations on her new opportunity.

4. Public Comments (items not on the agenda)

No public comments

5. Old Business

No old business.

6. New Business

6.1 [24-0480](#)

Presentation and Discussion - Annual State of Fair Housing Report 2024.

Brenda O'Connell, Community Development Administrator, presented the annual Fair Housing report. April is Fair Housing month in celebration of the anniversary of the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1968.

The Fair Housing Act (FHA) is a federal law that prohibits discrimination based on disability, race, sex, color, national origin, religion, and family status. The Illinois Human Rights Act adds additional protection including: age, marital status, military status, order of protection, pregnancy, sexual orientation, arrest record, and the newest addition, source of income. FHA's dual goals are to end housing discrimination and promote diverse and inclusive communities.

6.2 [24-0482](#)

Presentation and Discussion - Affordable Housing Pipeline.

Dominic Strezo, Grants Manager, presented the current status of our Affordable Housing projects and the general timeline of all Affordable Housing projects.

6.3 [24-0481](#)

Presentation and Discussion - Program Years 2025-2029 HUD Consolidated Plan.

Dominic Strezo shared components on the upcoming 2025-2029 HUD Consolidated Plan, highlighting the consultation process and the strategic plan priorities and goals. The priority needs/goals for the 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan were to end homelessness in Lake County/improve Homeless Crisis Response System, inclusive growth/assist people with special needs, accessible housing/maximize affordable housing, and borderless transit/create pathways for upward economic mobility.

7. Staff Reports

Brenda O'Connell introduced Community Development's new Grant Administrator, Courtney Cymerman. She also mentioned a new Continuum of Care Coordinator starting at the end of April. Brenda announced that she will be leaving Community Development for a position as Senior Policy Advisor with the Illinois Housing Development Authority (IHDA). Dominic Strezo will be taking over her position as Interim Community Development Administrator.

8. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 5:08 PM.