

**RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY BOARD (CDAB)
CITY OF BELLINGHAM, WASHINGTON**

**THURSDAY
November 18, 2021**
Audio-recorded

6:00 P.M.
Online - Zoom Meeting
www.cob.org

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Elizabeth Jennings

Members Present: Aran Clauson, Brien Thane, Elizabeth Jennings, Jennifer Miles, Rachel Jewell, Suneeta Eisenberg, Yin-Ho Lai and Hollie Huthman (City Council)*

Staff (PCDD): Samya Lutz, Housing & Services Program Manager; Kate Bartholomew, Development Specialist, Heather Aven, Recording Secretary

Members Absent: Alycia Hawkins, Christopher Pasquale

Guests:

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Minutes from October 14, 2021 were approved by general consensus.

AGENDA ITEMS:

Housing Projects Summary

See handout. No updates to discuss.

NOFA Update

Community Facilities application was simplified somewhat, to reduce repetition in the application and attachments. Again this year the City will accept a Cover Sheet only for childcare facilities if the applicant does not have enough information to complete the full application by the due date.

Consolidated Plan – Community Participation Process

The board reviewed the draft Community Participation Plan and gave feedback, provided many suggestions. These included generally an emphasis on meeting stakeholders where they are, keeping language simple and straightforward (no jargon), building relationships beyond just asking for one-time feedback. Build on community outreach initiatives that have already taken place recently or will take place.

City Staff Updates

- Families with Children facility – phase I report complete. Samya to send out report.
- The City and County have hired a Communications Consultant to help do a better job of communicating with the public about homelessness
- Tara & Samya presented to MNAC last night on the City's approach to Housing & Services, with a particular focus on serving those who are unhoused. Good feedback, with clear need to communicate better and more regularly.
- Recent flooding has further reduced our housing stock at a time when we desperately need to add housing.
- Gardenview Village – 17 folks have moved in (some from Base Camp, some who were camping outdoors).

What's the Buzz

- Whatcom Skagit, San Juan, Skagit Counties – Governor declared an emergency: 300-500 homes destroyed. Hoping to find funds at State level to support both short-term emergency housing and longer-term recovery housing.
- BHA seeing rents increase for Section 8 voucher holders. They increased their payment standard to the extent allowed by HUD and doubled the size of their mainstream voucher program to 150 households and got 63 additional emergency housing vouchers (for homeless families or at risk). So far, seeing more rent increases than evictions.

Future Agenda Items

- A speaker from Whatcom County Health Department on the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP)
- 2022 state legislative session – specifically renter protections
- A speaker on the business side of housing and real estate development (Kate suggested members watch the recent Housing Week session on “Making Affordable Housing Pencil” and shared link). Let staff know if there is still interest in this topic.
- A policy discussion in light on the close defeat of recent Initiative 1.
- A staff presentation from BHA about how the voucher system works (Section 8 and local forms of rent assistance)
- Presentation on role of non-profit vs role of government entity and ways they overlap and how they differ.
- Balance homeownership and the gap in funding.
- Additional discussion on ways to measure equity.

Adjourned

Minutes prepared by:

Kate Bartholomew, Development Specialist
Minutes edited by Housing & Services Program Manager