

Special Executive Committee Meeting
Minutes
February 27, 2008
Harbor Homes, Inc., 45 High Street

Present: L. Wilshire, Nashua Children's Home, Chair
Wendy Furnari, HIV Task Force, Co-Chair
Klaas Nijhuis, Former Chair
Carol Furlong, Harbor Homes, Inc.
Joanne Bresnahan, Keystone Hall
Peter Kelleher, Harbor Homes, Inc., Keystone Hall, HIV Task Force
Barbara Alves, Marguerite's Place
Bridget Belton-Jette, Neighborhood Housing
Linda Jeynes, Urban Programs
Kim Berube, Harbor Homes, Inc., Clerk

W. Furnari opened the meeting at 8:10 a.m. she indicated that this meeting is being held to come up with ideas to appoint a new Chair for the Continuum following the resignation of Lori Wilshire.

K.Nijhuis indicated that there may be a need to look at the proper expectation of the Chair and what the person's responsibilities will be. W. Furnari distributed the page of the GNCOC guidelines that indicate the process for electing officers.

L. Wilshire agreed with looking at the structure and how to move forward. B. Jette indicated the amount of work that goes into being the Chair may be too much work for one person. L. Wilshire indicated that she did not feel she had enough support.

L. Wilshire mentioned that all of the committees are unsure of what their missions are and the Executive Committee needs to make sure the roles are clearly defined.

P. Kelleher indicated that the Continuum is identified as one of the top Continuums and has had success in many areas. He also mentioned that the metrics are clear and that there has been an impact on homelessness.

P. Kelleher indicated that L. Wilshire has been successful in building bridges between the Continuum and the Aldermen, City Hall and the business community.

L. Wilshire mentioned that the past six to twelve months have been spent looking at the Ten Year plan, many of the partners have not been brought in and only dates have been changed. She indicated that she feels someone else would be better to articulate the goals.

L. Wilshire elaborated that the Continuum is not a failure but needs to be taken to a different level.

W. Furnari mentioned that L. Wilshire has been committed to the process and has been a member of every committee because no one else attended. L. Wilshire stated that she believes the Continuum is in need of a more strategic leadership. L. Jeynes mentioned that the leadership needs to appoint more tasks.

W. Furnari indicated that the Ten Year plan will need to be dissected on an ongoing basis. L. Wilshire reminded everyone about the discussion of merging some of the committees.

C. Furlong mentioned that the Chair, Co-Chair and Clerk are the only officers of the GNCOC and maybe we need to look at the responsibilities to see if more people are needed, such as two co-chairs.

L. Jeynes reiterated what P. Kelleher said about L. Wilshire's accomplishments and W. Furnari mentioned that the Continuum does not necessarily need to change or create a complete upheaval. P. Kelleher indicated that he has been attending meetings for the past 12 years and L. Wilshire has made a significant difference.

W. Furnari mentioned she would be happy to file the role of Chair in the interim. B. Jette mentioned that not a lot of people will be willing to step into the Chair position.

L. Wilshire expressed her concern that W. Furnari had recently stated that she did not have enough time to dedicate to the homeless conference. W. Furnari responded that she is more than willing to take on the duties of the Chair and will dedicate personal time if necessary.

K. Nijhuis mentioned that the committee will need to honor the guidelines and present this to the full Continuum. He mentioned preparing a draft stating that the Executive Committee has met two times to discuss this change and the best action at this time is to implement an Interim-Chair until November.

P. Kelleher agreed that W. Furnari should become Interim-Chair and use the upcoming months to gather additional information. The Committee will need to look at what needs to be done and assess future leadership opportunities.

W. Furnari indicated that L. Wilshire will announce her resignation at the full GNCOC meeting and let the GNCOC know that the Executive Committee will be preparing a new slate of officers at their March meeting if anyone from the community is interested.

P. Kelleher motioned to accept this agreement. B. Alves seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 9:23 a.m.

Minutes prepared by Kim Berube, Harbor Homes, Inc.