

Committee on Homelessness Meeting May 7, 2003

Present at the meeting were: Klaas Nijhuis, Bob Marks, Bob Mack, Maria Brown, Donna Juszkiewicz, Carol Carberry, Linda Jeynes, David Cull, Cheryl Rawe, Ray Peterson, Lisa Christie, Alphonse Haettenschwiller, Laura Nault, Chaplain Michael D. (last name indecipherable), Linda Barrera (Elm St. student) and Peter Kelleher.

The meeting began at 9:15 am. Copies of last month's minutes/notes were read and approved.

P. Kelleher mentioned the discussions he had at the Homelessness Conference about the Governor wanting to implement a NH Interagency Council (there would be one in every state). He said we could craft a letter to all groups asking for plans/suggestions for forming such an agency in the state.

M. Brown stated that the Homelessness Conference made her feel that managing homelessness could only be solved by putting money toward stable housing for lower income residents. We need to get the word out. She suggested something like wearing buttons stating "I'm making it happen, are you?" to get people interested and talking about it.

The Chaplain passed around a Newspaper from the "Homeless Empowerment Project" Spare Change Program and asked those assembled to sign on to publishing such a newspaper here.

B. Mack stated that the plans Nashua's CoC were working on should be shared in a state-wide collaboration.

A. Haettenschwiller said that until we can produce affordable housing, the problem would not be solved.

P. Kelleher led the discussion and K. Nijhuis recorded the following on flip charts:

Action Items:

Letter to partners – leverage on GSOP community organizing

Initiatives to increase supply of (affordable) homes –

Zoning

Mkt.

SB95

Prevent loss of (affordable) housing

Awareness campaign/info/planning

CoC-like website

Clearinghouse

Status of our work

Promotional campaign - buttons

Dealing with people's economic risks/social risks

Volunteer activity

Habitat

Others

Acknowledge costs, financial, time

Fidelity Fund – invite administrator

Employers – Corporations & involvement

American Legion

98% SRO Loss in Boston noted

Dealing with Supply is Martha Yager at Housing Forum

Land Use Plan:

Loss of SROs, new SROs unlikely to be built

Inner City rehabilitation: can't replace at current density

More impact on homeless/higher rents, welfare

Strategic investment of city revenues

Hiring employees – difficulty in bringing in labor w/o affordable housing opportunities

Re-occurring in the conversation:

Drugs and alcohol abuse

Blame society, individuals

Approaches to persuasion – tools in the tool box

Facts and Case studies: leaders and how they became heroes

Emotions

Educate each other:

About approaches, what we have tried

Roots of the problem

Resources and risks

Mentoring of clients

Case management – permanent supportive housing underlying link in social services and supports

Employing available resources

Land, (regional) city owned

Point out the fallacies

Developers want incentives not regulations

Tax incentives

Conference – leverage on the one we had and future ones, we have new confidence

Canvassing

Promotional material, buttons

Review how the other communities got government/leader buy-in

Real-Life stories

Reassess priorities (As set out in Consolidate Plan and elsewhere)

What are our immediate risks - opportunities?

Form an advocacy (“Speakers”) group – “Getting out to people that matter”
Powers in world: economy
Find (act on) the opportunities to speak, act-out, etc.
Voice of the people
Start modifying the best (Chicago and Indianapolis) plans for our use/situation.
Specific commitments (detailed) in the better plans
Mayor who got behind the program (goal)
Revisit CoC stated goals
Talking point summary – PowerPoint Presentation
Assign project tasks according to people’s talents/interests
Short-term (up front costs) vs. long-term costs and benefits
Pick goals for next meeting.

Tasks to do before next meeting:

Power Point presentation for corporations
May 22nd at 7:00 pm, land use code meeting – very important to attend
Petition signed for this meeting?
E-mail talking points to CoC list of the land use code listed above

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 am. The next Meeting will be June 4, 9:00 to 10:30 am.