

GNCOC Executive Committee Meeting

Minutes

November 16, 2005

Harbor Homes, 78 Main Street

PRESENT: Klaas Nijhuis, Urban Programs, Chair
Ruth Morrissette, Marguerite's Place
Wendy Furnari, HIV/AIDS Task Force
Miles Pendry, Harbor Homes, Inc.
Linda Jeynes, Urban Programs
Bob Mack, Nashua City Welfare
Sandra Hurd, Keystone Hall
Bridget Belton-Jette, Neighborhood Housing Services
Donnalee Lozeau, Southern NH Services, Inc.
Grace Hicks-Grogan, Nashua Housing Authority
Germano Martins, NH Dept. of Health & Human Services
Paul Newman, Urban Programs
Kathy Hersh, Community Development Division

The Chair opened the meeting at 8:05 am. K. Nijhuis summarized the memo from P. Newman that was discussed at the last GNCOC meeting about Chairman Nijhuis being directed to not continue to serve due to other responsibilities in his position at the Urban Programs Department. Newman further explained that it was not practical to have two people from the Urban Programs Dept. serving as officers of the GNCOC because of the time commitment involved. A reduction in government funding further limits the amount of time allocated to administrative costs. He apologized for sending the memo, but was unable to attend the meeting personally that morning. Nijhuis asked if the memo only concerned his position as chairman and that his term of service must end now. Newman answered in the affirmative and stated that the memo also said the deadline for this change must be accomplished by the end of November 2005.

D. Cull voiced concern that the GNCOC may become scattered and not as cohesive a group without the City's leadership and help. D. Lozeau felt it was inappropriate to invite the City Officials to personally explain the decisions contained in Newman's memo. But she felt it was important to the group to have a city individual helping to answer questions of government funding and other city information that may be helpful to the group when they are making decisions. B. Mack was concerned about losing Nijhuis as a resource because of his wealth of knowledge and experience. Newman said he appreciated this, but it was principally a matter of the logistics and clerical time involved. Cull stated that it was important to have proper leadership for the GNCOC.

K. Nijhuis said the COC is an autonomous body not with the city government. He stated how disturbing he found the meddling by people in city government outside the regular membership of the COC. He felt this was not the first time the group has tried to carry out a process only to have an outside directive pulling away resources and undoing the decisions made by the COC. He mentioned the interference with the recommendations of the COC's EDI advisory committee around the final EDI awards.

W. Furnari explained why no one has been able to step forward this year to take over the chairmanship, but that she and R. Morrissette had agreed to be Co-Vice Chairs in order to learn more and gain experience before taking over the leadership next year. Morrissette agreed and said that if this was a firm directive, than they would have to move forward and serve as interim

chairs until one could be found. She also stated that other COC's are often led by their City and have been very successful that way. There is a lot more information available when the City leads.

D. Lozeau reminded everyone that the GNCOC has had huge undertakings to deal with over the last couple of years and has always had City support besides Nijhuis to help. She expressed disappointment over Lori Cardin not being re-elected to the Board of Aldermen in the last election and wondered who will help with GNCOC concerns now. She suggested we ask Cardin if she might consider becoming the new Chair. (At this point, P. Newman excused himself to attend another meeting.)

Minutes: Nijhuis returned to the agenda and asked for any corrections to last month's minutes. Lozeau asked a question about the HIPAA requirements referred to in the paragraph entitled "Leveraging Letters". Nijhuis clarified. Mack noted a typo error. Lozeau motioned to accept the minutes with this correction, Mack seconded and the motion carried.

Old Business:

Newman Memo: Discussion resumed about the best way to move forward on getting a new Chairperson. Lozeau suggested nominating L. Cardin to be Chairperson to be elected at the next GNCOC meeting in December. Mack asked if there was any reason Nijhuis could not remain on the Executive Committee. Nijhuis replied that he serves on that committee as an officer. There is no need for additional UPD representation. Morrisette remarked that several members were missing from today's meeting and that they may have other suggestions or some other person who would like to run for Chair. B. Belton-Jette suggested an e-mail be sent to the whole GNCOC asking for nominations by a specified date. There followed more discussion. Nijhuis offered to call Cardin to ask if she was interested and left the room to do so. When he returned, he said she would think about it over the next two weeks. Lozeau motioned that the Executive Committee schedule a special meeting on November 30th to develop a slate of candidates and that an e-mail be sent to the whole GNCOC asking for nominations by November 29th. G. Hicks-Grogan seconded and the motion carried.

Mentorship Bank Presentation: (handout) Nijhuis asked if anyone had any objections to allowing time for this presentation at the next GNCOC meeting. No objections were voiced.

Taking GNCOC Meetings to Other Towns: After a short discussion, it was agreed for now not to have the meetings anywhere other than Nashua, to continue to extend the invitation to other towns to come and to engage them in the process since it is a requirement for the SuperNOFA. It was suggested the EHC take up the issue in the coming year.

General Meeting Agenda: It was agreed to add time to vote on the new chairman and time for the Mentorship Bank Presentation to the agenda.

Old Business:

Project Homeless Connect: Mack reported that plans were progressing well with 18 agencies taking part in the event. They will have flu shots available; give away gifts of various things, and lunch will be served. It is at the Main Street Methodist church from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm on December 8th.

Update on Chamber, Business Connection: Mack said the Chamber members have been touring several of the agencies and facilities in the area. Discussion ensued about how some of these businesses might become a part of the GNCOC.

Guidelines: (handout about BOSCO involvement in SuperNOFA) Lozeau suggested this be the principle focus of the next regular meeting in December; all agreed.

Impact of Elections: Both Nijhuis and Mack remarked on how we have lost a great friend in Lori Cardin not being re-elected and that it was important to provide the Aldermen with information on the issues concerning the GNCOC.

G. Martins announced that an Asian flu Forum was being held today (Nov.16th) at Brookstone Company in Merrimack from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

B. Mack thanked K. Nijhuis for his service as Chair of the GNCOC.

Next Month's Meetings:

The next **Special Executive Committee meeting** will be **November 30, 2005** and the next regular Executive Committee meeting will be **December 21, 2005**, both at 8:00 am, at Harbor Homes Inc., 78 Main Street. The GNCOC will meet December 7, 2005, 8:00 am in the City Hall Auditorium.

The meeting adjourned at 9:20.