

INTERFAITH OPEN COMMUNITIES
HYDE PARK CLUSTER MEETING
Minutes: March 14, 2005

Present: Marlene Vellinga, Sonya Hirshberg, Paul Beals, Joe Marlin, Anne Holcomb, Allan Lindrup, Don Coleman, Steven Flowers, Gene Krell, Mark Granfors, Pat Wilcoxon, Will White.

1. The meeting was called to order at 8:05 by Pat, who then set the agenda. The recent death and work of Carmella Thill, the founder of Catholic Voices, and an advocate of social justice were recognized during the faith reflection. Also remembered for their advocacy of housing and social justice issues were Rene Maxwell, John McDermott, John Donahue, and Les Brown.
2. Home Sharing – Paul Beals, the new Shared Housing Coordinator, was introduced by W. White. Paul's Prior work experience has been in the area of housing management and social work. He is enthusiastically looking forward to the challenges of this new position. Being planned is an informal sharing gathering of currently matched participants and prospective participants. Also, establishing a solid communication base with each cluster faith community is a priority.
3. Transitional Housing
 - a. The client family is working with mentors/case manager in assessing needs and setting goals. Both teen children attend and excel in private school. The female head is working and going to school.
 - b. The Annual Meeting of THP is scheduled for May 23, Augustana Lutheran Church. Nancy Radner, Executive Director of Partnership to End Homelessness, will guest-speaker at the meeting.
 - c. The Nominating Committee, headed by M. Granfors, is seeking volunteers so that its work of identifying candidates for unfilled board positions can get underway.
 - d. The financial condition of THP is sound.
4. Legislative Update –Pending state housing legislation being tracked are:
 - a. (SB75) Rental Housing Support – Out of committee and pending approval of recording fee amendment, the bill will be voted on by Senate.
 - b. (HB45) Source of Income – Out of committee and moving to House floor for consideration.
 - c. (HB603) Donations Tax Credit – This bill, approved by committee, and up for renewal, provides tax credits to affordable housing development donors.
 - d. Also being considered are;
 - Creation of Senate Housing Committee.
 - Establishing a permanent executive Task Force on affordable housing

- Federal Budget – Both House and Senate Budget Committees have passed
- Budget Resolutions that incorporate the administration’s austere constraints. These resolutions will result in severe cuts in affordable housing funds and a reduction in the number of housing choice vouchers available.

5. Other Business

- a. Housing Rally and Lobby Day April 7th, Springfield. Rallying and lobbying in the Rotunda, 11:00 [later rescheduled to 11:30] to 2:00 p.m.
- b. Illinois Shared Housing Network, Wednesday, March 23rd 10:00 a.m. – noon. Suburban Area Agency on Aging, Oak Park.
- c. The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m. and the next meeting is scheduled for April 11th, 8:00 p.m., at STA.

Submitted by:

Will White, Recorder