



Housing Working Group Meeting Notes

Wednesday, August 10, 2022

9:00-10:30am

Virtual Meeting

Attendance: Fred, Jody, Caitlin, Bianca, Peter, Suzie, Julie, James, Mark, Lloyd, Lori, & Bob

Agenda Items:

- **Updates from 7/28 Faith Leaders' Meeting**

There was a form shared with these entities to inquire into how they'd use the \$1.5M to respond to family homelessness in the community. Guidelines:

- Can't discriminate
- Has to be utilized to address family homelessness

Determining what support is needed from the County. It's possible that multiple proposals will be picked. There are no constraints around the maximum amount of an ask. Responses expected/due by the end of August with the intention to utilize September as an opportunity to review the options that are submitted. Once the review is completed the recommendations will be brought to the County Board for their review.

[Harvest House](#): Organization that was brought to the roundtable meeting to share insight into the services and operations that they offer

- **Shelter and temporary Housing Update**

Quality Inn (Savage) is up for sale. The city is in discussion with potentially purchasing that property as a component of their downtown revitalization to control that piece of land.

Concern: If this sells to another hotel operator, and nothing changes, they'd likely have a hotel needing renovations for the foreseeable future. Recognizing that this is a location that can serve the housing need for people experiencing housing instability for people that are working with shelter programming and for folks that are self-paying to live there.

If Savage controls this site, would they want to continue to offer transitional/emergency housing services with service providers and other entities

Understands that currently there are not service providers on site aiding residents, which has led to a consistently high police presence and other incidents

Anticipating that it could have a purchase price between \$5-6M as it holds business interests (hotel operations as well)

74 units, no kitchen. Anticipating that they'd take two rooms adjacent to each other and turn them into mini-living units/studios with kitchens/living rooms. Recognizes that there would be needs to rehab the building up to a couple of million dollars

Looking at whether this could be a partnership between multiple entities, similarly to the IRTS

Also considering whether the property could lead to a complete teardown, offering businesses on the first floor and workforce housing (or other housing) on upper floors

Owners are hoping to sell ASAP as they have a purchase agreement in place for a site on the East Coast



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CDA Potential Role: The CDA has owned properties over the years to offer transitional housing sites and permanent supportive housing sites for people that previously experienced housing instability
They've previously focused their efforts around low- and moderate-income properties – they own the properties, receive subsidies, and then receive a portion of resident incomes
Operation of rental assistance voucher programs
Workforce Housing Unit assistance

Exploring public/private partnerships? It sounds like the city is open to all ideas. Has had conversations with a couple of different development entities to explore different opportunities
Anticipating that it would be cost prohibitive to assume that a development entity could do this on their own

Questions:

- Exploring the entities that presently operate group home or other supportive setting operations?
- Appropriate partners to include within this work?
- Timelines to meet in order to assess viability.

Might be a value of the committee to present on the importance of this opportunity to the city
Could this be an item that we brought to service providers, funders, etc. to have a conversation about this

Seeking to establish a subgroup to plan next steps with the goal of fleshing out a plan that could be offered to the city council

Fred identified this as a “go big or go home” moment and could offer a tangible opportunity to advance a blueprint priority for us to focus on

- **LLE Housing Working Group Updates**
 - Final Maxfield Report

Seeking to work with SCALE Tech Team to further review this updated report and explore the ways that we could collectively partner across communities to address items identified within the report
SW Publications has been notified that the report has been finalized with the expectation that some further media will follow.

- **Land Trust Update**

The county and the CDA met with the city to bring back their request for a comp plan amendment (planned use changes)

Completing a traffic study and seeking to address neighborhood concerns before bringing it back for consideration

Identified NIMBY-ism as a concern for getting this passed the city review



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High contingency of residents from neighboring development that attended planning commission meeting to share their concerns

Only one way to access and leave proposed site that would impact traffic flow

Julie identified that they'll be able to use this an opportunity to get more information to bring back to the commission with a more prepared plan

New Prague – CDA has an opportunity out to bid for contractors to build out single family homes in a land trust there

Construction on Phase 1 of Habitat for Humanity project has begun. Submitted for Phase 2 funding this year.

- LLE Steering Committee Discussion
 - Prioritize Blueprint Strategies for action in 2022
 - Delivering LLE messaging - What? Who? How?
 - Collaboration with libraries, public health, school districts
 - Focus efforts on developing housing tools for use by SCALE community partners
- Future Meetings
- Community Housing news – Open Forum