



CITY OF BIDDEFORD

Planning and Development Department

Mayor's Affordable Housing Task Force Meeting Minutes

Date: May 24, 2022
Time: 5:30 PM
Location: Hybrid Meeting: City Council Chambers & Remote Access Meeting (1MRSA § 403-B permits public proceedings through remote access during the declaration of state of emergency due to COVID-19).

Committee Members in Attendance:

Doris Ortiz (Chair), Ciel Caldwell, Seth Harkness & Ian Garcia-Grant

Staff Present: Gail Wilkerson (via Zoom), Danica Lamontagne & Nan Whitten

1. Chair Ortiz brought the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.
2. There were no adjustments to the agenda.
3. Consent Agenda:
MOTIONS: 5:36 PM
Caldwell: Motion: To Approve Meeting Minutes from 4-26-22
Garcia-Grant: Second
Unanimous Approval of Meeting Minutes from 4-26-22.
4. Discussion
 - 4.1 The results of the most recent survey was discussed. It was mentioned that creating more homeownership has become less of a priority in some areas due to homelessness. Creating at least 90 rental units per year is necessary at this time.
 - 4.2 Danica Lamontagne, Communications Coordinator for the City of Biddeford gave a presentation about the Outreach Plan. She shared information from the Comp Plan surveys. Suggestions for the Housing Survey were to partner with non-profits in order to improve outreach. Question if people have to move within the next year and if so, why. The sample size for the survey should be between 600-700. Distribute the survey through Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, the Currier and by making an informational video. Create a survey geared toward developers asking what barriers they are facing in creating housing, giving incentives for creating affordable housing. It was suggested to collaborate with the Library to make the survey more available to the public. A list of landlords was requested, the Task Force would like to know how the public defines affordable housing. The Task Force would like to discuss the ease of doing business with the City, they would like to talk about Rent Control and what the public thinks this means. There should be a progress report at the June meeting and results at the July meeting.

4.3 Updates for the June meeting from staff review on historical housing data.

Identify housing shortages.

A representative from the Habitat for Humanity will speak at the June meeting, they are offering a tour of the Cape Porpoise project.

They would like to get input from the City Manager on acquiring ARPA Funds Chair Ortiz announced that the City is working with Devine Capital on affordable Housing, they will give the City \$500,000.00 toward affordable housing.

The City is trying to find more funding to go to affordable housing.

The Task Force would like a list of City owned property.

Governor Mills has signed in a new law which will give additional density for properties, a presentation on the specifics of this new law is wanted.

5. Adjourn:

- **Caldwell: Motion to adjourn 6:53 PM**
- **Garcia-Grant: second**
- **Motion carried with unanimous vote**

Task Force Chair

Date

These minutes are summary and are not intended to be verbatim. Archived meetings are viewable on the City's website: www.biddefordmaine.org.