RESIDENT AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS
COMMITTEE MEETING
OF THE HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY
OF WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLNIA
December 18, 2013

The regular monthly meeting of the Resident and Community Relations Committee was held on Wednesday, December 18, 2013 at 4:00 p.m. at the Wilmington Housing Authority, 1524 South 16th Street, Wilmington, North Carolina.

Committee Members Present: Jeffrey G. Hovis, Commissioner
Stuart Franck, Commissioner
Greg Neel, Commissioner
L.S. "Bo" Dean Jr., Commissioner
Debra H. Hays, Commissioner
Helayne Levy, Commissioner
Glenn Floyd, Director of HEO
Michelle Kerwin, Director of Finance

Committee Members Absent: Arcelia Wicker, Sr., Commissioner and Chair

Others Present: Alfredia McDonald, Commissioner
Vernice Hamilton, Interim CEO
Rhonda Mack, Director of HCV
Karen Schraml, HEO Coordinator
Sara Davis, Executive Assistant
T.M. O'Donnell, Wilmington Police Department
J. Doyle, New Hanover Sheriff's Department
S.D. Keaton, Wilmington Police Department
Dolores Williams

1. Call to Order

The meeting of the Resident and Community Relations Committee was called to order by the Chair at 4:45 p.m. on Wednesday, December 18, 2013 Pursuant to the Notice sent to the Commissioners and Staff of Wilmington Housing Authority.

2. Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the November 21, 2013 ARD committee meeting were reviewed, Commissioner Franck made the motion to approve and Commissioner Hovis seconded. Minutes were unanimously approved.

Commissioner Hays asked the officers present to introduce themselves and give an update to the Committee. Officers in attendance were; Tylor O'Donnell, WPD, James Doyle, Sheriff's Office and Selma Keaton, WPD.

Officer O'Donnell reported success with the two teams for the Housing Task Force. He stated they are able to make contact with the residents and currently the two most active sites are Hillcrest and Houston Moore.

Officer Doyle reported the following in regards to Hillcrest:

- Criminal activity is from outside people coming in.
- Most activity is at the Annex.
- Lighting at Hillcrest is poor and not helping.

Commissioner Dean asked if motion lights would help and they said any additional lighting would help especially the lighting like what is at Creekwood.

Ms. Hamilton stated that Duke Progress Lighting is to be installing the first of the lights at Hillcrest at the first of the year.

Commissioner Doyle stated the Trespass List is becoming an issue because there are people that get put on the list and then removed; Antwon Underwood was the example given. He wants the Commissioners to consider how much officer recommendation is taken into account when removing people off the list.

Commissioner Hays asked who the Officers make their requests too when they want someone on the list and the Officers stated that James Jamison is their contact.

Ms. Hamilton stated she would look into the name mentioned and the status of his place on the list.

A discussion of the streets through Creekwood was held and Commissioners assured Officers they are working with the City on what can be done about the streets.

Commissioner Levy asked how Mr. Jamison receives the name that the Officers want on the list and they stated they call Mr. Jamison asks him to put the individual on the list and then turn the paperwork in the next day.

Commissioner McDonald asked how many people have been put on the list in the last 2 months and Officers said approximately 5-8 in the last month just from their team.

Ms. Hamilton stated, based on the Trespass List, 9 people were placed on the list from November 1 to 30th.

Officers agreed residents need to be made to display their housing IDs and most residents do not carry their IDs and Ms. Hamilton stated approximately 90% of the residents now have their IDs. She stated any residents not carrying their IDs are in violation of their lease and will be dealt with as such. She stated January 2nd enforcement begins.

Officer Doyle reported there is a strong order of Natural Gas at 1400 Willard St., Houston Moore. He said the Fire Department was called because the order was so bad and Ms. Hamilton stated it would be checked into.

Ms. Hamilton informed the Officers that several residents have said how thankful they are for all the Officers are doing.

3. Trespass Policy

Ms. Hamilton deferred to Rhonda Mack.

Ms. Mack handed out the NC General Statues pertaining to the Trespass List. She reviewed the policy and how it fits in with the General Statues.

Some changes she suggested were:

- If it is minor offense that puts them on the list they have 6 months to appeal.
- Anything more should be 18 months.
- HUD mandatory lifetime added.

Commissioner Hays suggested the Committee take the list and statues and review them so everyone comes to the meeting in January. She requested copies of the lease go out to all Commissioners.

Commissioner Neel pointed out that the term “Law Enforcement” needs to be in place of “WPD.”

Commissioner McDonald asked Commissioner Hays and Hovis to update her on the meeting they had with the City regarding the streets at Creekwood.

Commissioner Hovis stated that since the City owns the streets we cannot enforce our rules if someone is actually standing on the streets in Crreekwood so there is talks between the Authority and the City on how to work the streets so WHA has more control.

Commissioner Hays stated it is important to have a Trespass Policy that is congruent with our lease and both law enforcement and Housing Authority be on the same page.

The Committee held a discussion on how the list is managed and how that can be changed for the better.

Commissioner McDonald stated she believes the appeal process is unfair and wants it looked into.

The consensus was the Committee would review and discuss at January's Committee meeting.

4. Adjournment

A motion made by Commissioner Dean and seconded by Commissioner Hovis to adjourn the meeting carried unanimously

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