

*Sonoma County Community Development Committee*



**Human Services Dept. Representative:** Oscar Chavez (Chair), **Tenant Representatives:** Stephanie Hiller, Jessica Vega  
**1<sup>st</sup> Dist:** Betzy Chavez **2<sup>nd</sup> Dist:** *Vacant* **3<sup>rd</sup> Dist:** Karin Davis **4<sup>th</sup> Dist:** Willie Lamberson **5<sup>th</sup> Dist:** Linda Garcia  
**Executive Director:** Margaret Van Vliet

**Public Meeting**  
**Wednesday, August 15, 2018**

**Minutes**

**1. Call to Order and Roll Call**

Oscar Chavez called the meeting to order at 10:05 am and roll was called

**CD Committee Members Present:** Oscar Chavez, Willie Lamberson, Linda Garcia, Stephanie Hiller, Jessica Vega, Karin Davis (arrived at 10:24am)

**CD Committee Members Absent:** Betzy Chavez

**CDC Staff Present:** Margaret Van Vliet, Executive Director; Geoffrey Ross, Assistant Executive Director; Benjamin Wickham, Affordable Housing Director; Felicity Gasser, Policy and Communications Liaison; Chuck Mottern, Public Services and Funding Coordinator; Stacey McLaughlin, Assistant to the Director; Holly Trujillo, Senior Community Development Specialist; Darrin O’Hara, Affordable Housing Administrative Aide; Shelley Ticehurst, Construction Services Administrative Aide.

**Guests Present**

Caryl Sherman, Rohnert Park Senior Advisory Commission  
Sally Walker, SAY  
Shelley Clark, Legal Aid  
Debbie McKay, resident

**2. Public Comments for Items Not on the Agenda**

Caryl Sherman shared that she has been on the Section 8 HUD program for 16 years, prior to which she was homeless for two years. She has lived in low income senior housing for the past 11 years and is worried that there are no accountability mechanisms for property managers. Residents are frightened to speak with authorities about senior issues including accessibility for fear of retaliation such as eviction. The Rohnert Park City Council has said they’ve met their quota for affordable housing but that’s not enough.

**3. Approval of Minutes from the July 18, 2018 meeting**

Linda Garcia moved to approve the minutes, Jessica Vega seconded  
Ayes: Oscar Chavez, Stephanie Hiller, Willie Lamberson,

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Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Karin Davis, Betzy Chavez

#### **4. Housing Authority Update**

Geoffrey Ross gave an update on the Housing Authority's administrative updates, moves toward updating the waitlist, and additions of the Housing Navigator and Housing Locator positions. These actions are all moving the Housing Authority to align with the homeless system redesign.

#### **5. Presentation of PSWRC-NAHRO Hero of Assisted Housing Award**

Margaret Van Vliet presented a plaque recognizing Jessica Vega for her successful nomination of Hero of Assisted Housing awarded by the Pacific Southwest Regional Council - National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Organizations (PSWRC-NAHRO) at the May 2018 Annual Conference.

#### **6. Homeless System Redesign**

Geoffrey Ross presented an update on the progress of the Sonoma County Homeless Ad Hoc to develop a new governance structure for the Continuum of Care and seat a new nine-member council by November in anticipation of \$12 million in emergency services funding coming to the county from the State. The redesign would also include a 25-member technical advisory committee consisting of members of specific service provider groups. Funding decisions for public services will no longer be decided by the CD Committee, but by this new board. Commission staff encouraged members of the CD Committee to apply to be part of the technical advisory committee of the new CoC Board.

#### **7. Development of FY 2019-20 Funding Policies**

Felicity Gasser went over the memo given to Committee members in their agenda packet outlining the proposed changes to the fiscal year funding policies. Many of the updates were policy changes granted by the disaster waivers which will allow unspent Capital funds to be put towards housing. Another update would divvy annual dollars between jurisdictions and look at anticipated funding over a five year period rather than a one year. Committee members expressed concern that certain regions in the County (e.g. Windsor) would be less inclined to spend funds on affordable housing.

#### **8. Assistant Executive Director's Report**

Margaret Van Vliet presented an update on the County's draft recovery framework plan which

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includes five elements: Housing, Emergency Preparedness, Economic Recovery, Natural Environments and Watersheds, and Safety Net Services. Plan and framework is being publically vetted through community meetings and is still receiving comments. The Board of Supervisors will hear and adopt the plan on the 25<sup>th</sup> of September. Also, the Federal Register containing the guidelines for how CDBG-DR funds are to be distributed was released on August 14<sup>th</sup>, and the Board of Supervisors will be given a briefing on how this money can and cannot be spent on September 18<sup>th</sup>. Committee members will be apprised of this meeting at their regularly scheduled hearing on September 19<sup>th</sup>.

## **9. Adjournment**

Oscar Chavez adjourned the meeting at 11:46am.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Holly Trujillo  
Senior Community Development Specialist