

**CITY OF FORT WORTH, TEXAS
SUPPORTIVE HOUSING TASK FORCE MEETING
OCTOBER 23, 2014**

Present:

Council Member Kelly Allen Gray, Chair
Council Member Danny Scarth (Joined the meeting at 2:33 p.m. at 511 N. Akard)
Barbara Holston
Perry Pillow
Alex Jimenez
Flora Brewer
Norbert White
David Zappasodi

Absent:

Council Member Dennis Shingleton
Glen Whitley
Andy Taft
Lee Nicol
MaryEllen Wellbaum

Staff Present:

Fernando Costa, Assistant City Manager
Vicki Ganske, Senior Assistant City Attorney
Ronald P. Gonzales, Assistant City Secretary
Otis Thornton, Homelessness Services Director
Maggie Jones, Homelessness Coordinator

The Supportive Housing Task Force conducted its initial meeting by participating in a bus window tour through neighborhoods in East Fort Worth and a tour of CityWalk@Akard in Dallas, Texas. Task Force members, City staff and representatives of CityWalk were present to answer questions and receive comments.

I. Call to Order

At 1:16 p.m. on Thursday, October 23, 2014, Co-Chair Kelly Allen Gray called the meeting of the Supportive Housing Task Force to order as the bus departed the south end of Fort Worth City Hall, 1000 Throckmorton Street, Fort Worth, Texas.

II. Travel

Mr. Thornton welcomed everyone to meeting and advised that Council Member Scarth would join the tour upon arrival at CityWalk, 511 N. Akard, Dallas, Texas. He stated that the tour would begin with a window view of the Woodhaven neighborhood in Fort Worth.

At 1:35 p.m., the bus arrived in the Woodhaven neighborhood and Mr. Thornton stated that it was one of the most densely populated areas and had a large concentration of apartments. He added that the apartments had gone up and down in management of the properties and had recently undergone renovation to update the apartments. The bus departed the Woodhaven neighborhood at 1:40 p.m.

III. Meeting Continued at 511 N. Akard, Dallas, Texas 75201

The bus arrived at CityWalk@Akard, 511 N. Akard, Dallas, Texas at 2:15 p.m. Task force members and City staff were greeted by CityWalk representatives and escorted to the 3rd floor where Mr. John Greenan, representing CitySquare, presented a briefing on Permanent Supportive Housing and Housing First. He explained that CityWalk@Akard was adaptive re-use of a 15-story historic downtown office building that was a mixed-use and mixed-income facility. He added that floors 1-14 were affordable housing units and there were six condominiums on the top floors and all had been sold.

(Council Member Scarth joined the meeting at this time.)

He provided background on the facility and summarized another similar facility located in Dallas at the Lone Star Gas Lofts, 300 S. St. Paul, as well as other redevelopment efforts at the Plaza Hotel located at 1011 S. Akard and HighPoint Senior and HighPoint Family located at 1615 Zang Boulevard. He also advised of the development of the Cottages at Hickory Crossing located at 1531 Malcolm X Boulevard that was under construction and located across the street from the CitySquare Opportunity Center at 1610 South Malcolm X Boulevard.

Mr. Greenan responded to questions from task force members regarding how to obtain support from the community, loans and what were the key actions that make these types of properties successful.

Task Force members were then given a tour of an Efficiency Unit in the complex and then toured Unit 602, one of the condominium units owned by Mr. Greenan which was located on the 14th floor. This concluded the tour of CityWalk@Akard.

IV. Depart CityWalk@Akard

The bus departed CityWalk@Akard at 3:47 p.m.

V. Meeting Continued at the CitySquare Opportunity Center, 1610 South Malcolm X Boulevard, Dallas, Texas

The bus arrived at the CitySquare Opportunity Center, 1610 South Malcom X Boulevard at 3:56 p.m. Council Member Scarth was already present. Mr. Greenan explained that the Center was a comprehensive opportunity center that provided key services for low income residents of east and south Dallas. He added the Center's tenants included the Workforce Solutions of Greater Dallas, a food distribution center, wellness center, a comprehensive training center and CitySquare Americorps.

Mr. Greenan escorted task force members and City staff to the second floor of the facility to view the beginning construction for the Cottages at Hickory Crossing. He explained the purpose of the housing development and advised that the Center was in negotiations to purchase other properties in the area to expand the housing development. The tour of the Center concluded at 4:15 p.m.

VI. Depart Dallas for Return to Fort Worth

The bus departed the CitySquare Opportunity Center at 4:19 for the return trip to Fort Worth.

VII. Adjournment

The bus arrived at the north end of City Hall at 5:25 p.m. and Council Member Allen Gray adjourned the meeting at this time.