

City of Valdosta Fair Housing Committee

Monthly Meeting – Minutes

Thursday, October 8, 2015 5:30-6:30

City of Valdosta – City Hall Annex, Multi-Purpose Room

Members Present:

Pastor David Adams, Seth Brown, Kelly Strozier, Herbert Williams

City Staff Present: Vanassa Flucas and Sarah Lowe

Guests/Visitors Present: Dr. James LaPlant, Dr. Robert Yehl & Dr. Nicholas Fowler

The Meeting was called to order by Kelly Strozier at 5:34 p.m., followed by the invocation given by Mr. Williams.

Motion made to approve the minutes from September meeting by Mr. Brown.

Seconded by Mr. Williams

Minutes for September Meeting approved by all.

Focus Group Report: Presentation given by guests, Dr. LaPlant, Dr. Yehl and Dr. Fowler from Valdosta State University on the Focus Group Report. The report along with power point handout were provided to the committee.

Dr. LaPlant went through the presentation highlighting key factors.

Ms. Flucas shared as a reminder, that this report is already being addressed by City Manager, and City Departments have already begun implementation of new policies as a result from the report results.

Mr. Williams wanted to know how this report/results from the survey can be shared with the participating individuals (so they are aware that actions are being made from their participation).

Ms. Flucas will follow up on this question and will report back to the committee.

Overall it was believed that the survey produced constructive feedback that can further the committee's efforts in improving the community.

City Website Update: Brief discussion was held on the changes to the City website. Ms. Flucas assured that the primary goal is to make the overall page user friendly. We want to keep it clean, and easy to navigate. We want the Fair Housing Committee to offer feedback on what they would like available and this feedback will be taken into account as our new website goes live in the New Year.

Fair Housing Meeting Dates for 2016: The Fair Housing Committee will be moving toward a quarterly meeting system instead of the monthly meeting arrangement.

New Meetings have been set for the following dates in 2016:

January 14

April 14

July 14

October 13

The Meetings will continue to begin at 5:30p.m., at the City Hall Annex, Multi-Purpose Room located at 300 N Lee Street. If any part of this should change, notice will be sent out in advance.

Fellwood Field Trip: Ms. Lowe addressed the Committee on the Sustainable Fellwood Field Trip to Savannah. Currently there are only two committee members able to make the proposed trip on Nov. 11th. This date will be shared with the Land Bank Authority Committee whom also showed interests in attending. However, if we still have a small number able to attend, we will postpone the trip until spring (February or March). Ms. Lowe will update the committee accordingly.

2015 Homeless Count: Ms. Strozier shared information with the Committee on the 2015 Homeless Count. There are 21 unsheltered. There were concerns discussed as to how the count is taken and the rules that govern "What it is to be homeless". Suggestions made by Mr. Adams on adding new categories to better assess all homeless individuals.

Ms. Flucas stated she is working on a new application with the Department of Community Affairs (DCA) and hopes to utilize it to pull more information from individuals to gain a real count in January/February of 2016. She is planning to start work on this new app in December and have ready to begin in January.

Open Discussion: Ms. Flucas gave update regarding the Windshield Survey. The data is being formatted for reports and maps in success maker software.

There were no additional agenda to discuss, so Ms. Strozier motioned to adjourn. Pastor Adams seconded this motion. The meeting was adjourned at 6:47 p.m.