

Rental Housing Research Stakeholder Group Meeting Minutes

West Central Community Center, Mason Auditorium

1603 N. Belt Street, Spokane, WA

June 14, 2016, 5:30pm-7:30pm

Introduction

Julie Banks, Chair

Ground Rules

Heather Trautman, Facilitator

- Reviewed ground rules and meeting agenda.

Introduction of Issues and Programs Matrix

Introduced list of Issues from Speakers and Presentations and list of Existing Programs. Issues and existing programs were arranged into matrix. The group will divide into groups to determine which programs address the issues listed.

Comment: The list of issues provided is too vague. Requested a comprehensive list of issues as they were presented in all the previous meetings. In addition the descriptions of the existing programs are not detailed enough.

The list of issues provided was distilled from all of the issues presented in previous meetings. It was circulated prior to the meeting along with the list of existing programs to allow the stakeholders to review the lists and add any items they felt were missing.

While some in the stakeholder group were agreeable to continuing with the meeting as outlined in the agenda, some stakeholders requested a broader list of issues and explanation of existing programs.

The group agreed to adjust the meeting agenda and review the list of issues and existing programs in order to explain items on the list and add missing issues and programs.

Discussion of Existing Programs

The list of existing programs was reviewed and the stakeholders suggested additional programs and asked questions.

The stakeholders added multiple programs and noted limitations of some programs on the list. Some of the proposed programs include:

- NW Fair Housing Alliance
- Center for Justice
- S.C.O.P.E. (Program for unincorporated Spokane County)
- Mediation services including Inland Mediation Services and Fulcrum
- SNAP Energy Assistance

- Spokane Regional Health District
- Spokane Housing Authority
- Women's Hearth
- Veteran's Vouchers
- HUD
- EPA

Q. How do people access C.O.P.S.?

A. Through neighborhood locations or local police officers

Q. What changes were recently made to the nuisance ordinance?

A. The new ordinance changes the amount of time in which a property can be considered a nuisance. Adds violations and sets up a new penalty system.

Comment: It might be helpful to sort the existing programs into two categories: Programs that are good resources and programs with severe restrictions

Comment: One gap is that there are no free dispute or mediation services available.

Comment: Many non-profits have responsible renters programs.

Q. Are responsible renters programs restrictive as to who can access them?

A. Any organization can provide a responsible renters program, participant restrictions depend on the organization.

ONS will ask nonprofits about specific rental training programs they offer.

Comment: The most significant gap seems to be that there are not enough teeth in existing city programs such as code enforcement, building department, nuisance ordinance, etc. The only way to make people accountable is through enforcement and the city does not have sufficient ability to enforce.

Discussion Regarding Timeline of Wrapping up Rental Housing Research Stakeholder Group

The stakeholders have not agreed to any meetings beyond this one, would the stakeholders like to meet again and if so, when?

The stakeholders decided to meet once in July and once in August. The July meeting will be held on July 19, 2016 from 5 to 6:30pm at the West Central Community Center. A date for the August meeting was not set.

Daniel Clark will email the stakeholders the complete list of issues. Email Daniel any programs, program limitations, or issues you would like to add to the list by July 12.

Comment: Proposed a sheet that allows the issues to be described in detail and identify programs, gaps, etc. Also, please invite Bob Cooke come to the next meeting to field questions and comment on his report analyzing the data presented in the Landlord's presentation.

Mayor's Housing Quality Taskforce

The stakeholders agreed to extend the meeting five minutes longer to get an update on the Mayor's Housing Quality Taskforce.

A summary of the Mayor's Housing Quality Taskforce was presented with input from several stakeholders and audience members present who are participants on the taskforce. Additional information on the taskforce may be found at:

<https://my.spokanecity.org/projects/mayors-housing-quality-task-force/>