

ARIZONA FAIR HOUSING PARTNERSHIP MEETING ("AFHP/PARTNERSHIP") Meeting Minutes

[September 10th, 2015]

I. Call to order

Meeting Called to order at 2:07 p.m. at the Arizona Department of Housing located at: 1110 W Washington St, #310, Phoenix, AZ 85007

II. Roll Call

The following persons were present:

In person: Joy Johnson, Carissa Cyr, Enrique Medina Ochoa, Val Sarver, Stan Silas, Alexandra Lestinsky, Michael Cardenas, Stanko Zovko

Rachel Ann Perez, Theresa James, Stanko Zovko, Enrique Medina Ochoa, Joy Johnson, Les M. Gin, Val Sarver, Sharon Stephenson

Telephonically: Jennifer Battaglia, Adriana Medrano, Theresa Rassas, Debbie Pearson

III. Open issues (Old Business)

a) Minutes from June 10th, 2015 were adopted.

b) By-laws revision

The updates to the by-laws was briefly discussed but not in great detail. An updated version of the by-laws that reflects the edits that were made in the June 10th meeting will be available for review at the October meeting.

c) April 2016 Symposium (topics ideas, future planning, etc.)

Topics

Potential topics were discussed for the April event. Previous suggestions were reviewed which included: religion, national origin, medical marijuana, and veteran.

Stan Silas reiterated that we consider the topic of religion because it is the one protected class that we have not covered in previous years. He also mentioned that he would like a presentation on fair housing testing. This could be covered between the two panels like we did last year for the inclusive home design ordinance.

Planning

Carissa Cyr suggested that we discuss how we can engage more people to participate in the event as a future meeting topic.

Joy Johnson expressed concern over the budget of the event. She stated that we do not have much of a margin in our available funds and that last year's event barely broke even.

Matthew Cardenas stated that we should review our major costs for the event, namely food and the venue. He stated that we need to verify with Darrel Christenson, but he believes we will likely be charged if we plan on using the disability empowerment center next year. It has been a great location for the event in the past, but we should consider it against other venues as well now that price is a factor.

It was mentioned that some partnership members might have facilities that could also house the event at no charge. Someone suggested that we contact the Burton Barr Library and the City of Tempe Library.

Enrique Ochoa expressed that the price of the annual event should be increased to be comparable with other events that are held by other organizations. He felt that a higher priced event would help raise the status of the organization as well as the quality of the event. Enrique stated that many groups consider this a small expense.

Stan Silas stated that we need to consider the organizations that have been loyally attending in previous years when considering the cost, as well as who we are trying to attract.

Joy Johnson suggested that we offer sponsorships for the event. She stated that we could circulate a sponsorship letter to various organizations and these funds could be used to hold a larger event. Enrique Ochoa echoed that statement and added that many banks have an obligation to spend money towards furthering fair housing as a result of legal settlements. He mentioned reaching out to Wells Fargo and Bank of America specifically.

Stanko Zovko suggested that we could present awards as well. This would be a way to recognize organizations in the community and could serve as a way to engage more groups with the event.

Michael Cardenas mentioned increasing our presence prior to the symposium by tabling other events as the Arizona Fair Housing Partnership.

Enrique Ochoa mentioned that we could also bring people in from out of state for the event. He stated that he had recently returned from the HUD policy conference where he had spoken with people who had expressed interest in coming to Arizona for an event. He mentioned the possibility of reaching out to David Quezada and the Secretary Director of HUD to attend.

Joy Johnsons recommended that we reach out to organizations with kitchens such as UMOM and see if they would be willing to cater the event. Joy also mentioned sending a generic save the date without any specifics so that people could block out the date on their calendars in advance.

Carissa Cyr suggested that the partnership set milestones to be completed by future meetings in regards to the Symposium. Stanko Zovko stated that Theresa James had created a document to organize tasks but he had forgotten to include it with the other documents for the meeting. It will be available for the next meeting.

d) New AFFH Rule - Stanko

Stanko gave an in-depth presentation to those in attendance regarding Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing and HUD's new rule. He covered the historical background, judicial history, and the future obligations of jurisdictions receiving HUD funding.

IV. New Business/Announcements

Stan Silas passed out copies of the transcript for the *Jones v. Travelers Casualty Insurance Company of America* for review by the members.

V. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:20 p.m.

Minutes submitted by: Stanko Zovko