

ARIZONA FAIR HOUSING PARTNERSHIP MEETING
(“AFHP/PARTNERSHIP”)
Meeting Minutes

[October 14th, 2015]

I. Call to order

Meeting Called to order at 2:09 p.m. at the Tempe Public Library, 2nd Floor Conference Room, 3500 S Rural Rd, Tempe, AZ 85282

II. Roll Call

The following persons were present:

In person: Joy Johnson, Val Sarver, Stanko Zovko

Telephonically: Jennifer Battaglia, Adriana Medrano, Theresa Rassas, Debbie Pearson, Carissa Cyr, Darrel Christenson, Rebekah Browder, Allisa

III. Open issues (Old Business)

a) Minutes from September 9th, 2015 were adopted.

b) By-laws revision

The updates to the by-laws were discussed. Many stated that they could not access the link that Stanko Zovko sent due to it being hosted on google docs. They asked that he send it again as a regular attachment. He stated that he would do so when he send the meeting minutes at a future date.

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

Topics

Potential topics were discussed for the April Symposium. Stan Silas had made a suggestion during the previous meeting that religion be a topic for the next symposium since it has not been covered in the past. This suggestion was reviewed by those present. Several of the groups that take fair housing complaints noted that they did not receive many religion based complaints. No one could identify a prominent religion based issue that they were encountering in the community at this time.

Stanko and Darrel that disability, while it has been covered in the past, is a complex subject where a majority of fair housing complaints come from.

On the topic of disabilities, Rebekah suggested that assistive animals be discussed. She stated that a large number of their complaints are related to misunderstandings about assistive animals.

Adrianna suggested that community development be a topic. She stated that explaining how low income and affordable housing ties into fair housing would help people working on those issues.

The issue of disparate impact was brought up as a potential topic. Since the Supreme Court upheld the doctrine, several jurisdictions expressed interest in learning more about their obligations in relation to disparate impact. Sandra Kane was recommended as a speaker for this.

Planning

Stanko shared a planning guide that Theresa James had put together to organize the event. Darrel confirmed that the Disability Empowerment Center is going to charge us to use the facility next year. It was decided that since the partnership is no longer able to use the venue for free that other options would be explored and considered. Joy recommended that the participating cities and local jurisdictions explore potential venues that they may have access to for the event.

The topic of price was discussed. In the previous meeting Enrique Ochoa had suggested that the partnership raise the price of the event to increase the profile and be able to offer a more robust event. Darrel stated that if any change to the price would happen that it be done incrementally so as not to price out the regular audience that attends. It was decided that since there are still a few logistical issues to iron out, namely the venue, the partnership did not have enough information to determine the price at this time.

Joy Johnson recommended that we award one individual and one organization for their efforts.

d) Disparate Impact - Stanko

Stanko stated that he had recently worked with a client named Mark Anzivino who has a mental health issue and a criminal record. He stated that Mark is having a great deal of difficulty finding housing due to the crime free addendum that is in place at most properties and this is greatly effecting his ability to receive consistent treatment. Stanko stated that Mark was a compelling individual who was able to communicate his struggle better than most clients he works with. He stated that his interaction with Mark was a perfect summary of disparate impact that crime free addendums are having on a protected classes since criminal offenders tend to have a higher level of mental health issues and have a higher ratio of minorities.

Stanko indicated that the Southwest Fair Housing Council was considering examining crime free policies as a disparate impact issue in regards to fair housing. He wanted to know if any other organizations were interested in pursuing this as well. He iterated that he understood that many of the organizations present might not have the capacity to look at this in the manner he was suggesting but he wanted to gauge the willingness of other organizations to participate.

IV. New Business/Announcements

Darrel Christenson announced that A Bridge to Independent Living (ABIL) would be changing its name to Ability360 starting October 1st. The Disability Empowerment Center is also being renamed the Ability360 center. He stated that all of the information is available on their website as well.

V. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:04 p.m.

The next partnership meeting will be held on November 18th, 2015 at 2:00 pm.

Minutes submitted by: Stanko Zovko