

**Affordable Housing Advisory Committee
St. Johns County, Florida
Regular Meeting**

April 17, 2024
Minutes

The Affordable Housing Advisory Committee (AHAC) of St. Johns County met at 3:00 pm at the Health & Human Services Center, in the Muscovy Conference room, at 200 San Sebastian View, St. Augustine, Florida 32084.

The meeting was called to order at 3:04 pm by Chair, Alex Mansur.

Members Present:

Jay Braxton – St. Johns County resident
Greg Burke - Residential home builder
Orville Dothage – Banking/mortgage banking industry
Bill Lazar - Citizen actively engaged as a not-for-profit provider of affordable housing
Alex Mansur - Citizen actively engaged in areas of labor in home building
Harry Maxwell - Citizen actively engaged as a for-profit provider of affordable housing
Mike O'Donnell - HFA Chair/citizen actively engaged as an advocate for low-income persons
Elvis Pierre - Citizen actively serving on local planning agency
Lindsey Rodea - Essential service personnel
Karl Vierck - Banking actively engaged as a real estate developer

Members Absent:

Roy Alaimo - Locally elected official
Lindsey Rodea – Essential service personnel

Guests Present:

Joe Cone - Assistant Director, Health and Human Services
Mary Garcia – Support Staff, Social Services
Jenny Harvey - Manager, Housing and Community Development
Michelle Lawlor - Support Staff, Housing & Community Development
Yadelmi Martinez - Economic Justice Advocate, Betty Griffin House
Joe McAnarney – St. Johns County Resident
Vicki Pepper – St. Johns County Resident
Amy Ring - Special Projects Manager, Growth Management
Judy Spiegel – St. Johns County Resident
Evan Walsnovich - Planner, Growth Management

Notices regarding the meeting were sent to all members. No press was in attendance.

1. **Introduction of AHAC Members and SJC Staff:** Committee members and County staff were acknowledged and a quorum was present.

2. **Approval of Minutes:** Motion made by Greg Burke to approve minutes of the March, 2024, meeting; motion seconded by Elvis Pierre. **The motion passed unanimously.**
3. **Administrators Report:** Jenny Harvey reported to the Committee that five staff members attended the Fair Housing Symposium in Jacksonville, and it was very informative. Ms. Harvey would like to bring in a guest speaker for the May meeting to talk about the Tiny Homes on Navaho community, which was developed through a partnership between the Delores Barr Weaver Foundation and Habitat and Managed by Ability Housing. Ms. Harvey stated that the Housing department has received a conditional approval on the Down Payment Assistance program and that it will be going before the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) for full approval in May.
4. **PZA Representative:** Mary Garcia informed the Committee that Elvis Pierre is stepping down from the Affordable Housing Advisory Committee (AHAC). The Planning and Zoning Agency (PZA) has recommended Judy Spiegel to fill Mr. Pierre's position on the Committee. This recommendation will go in front of the BCC on May 7th for approval. Ms. Garcia also informed the Committee that Lindsey Rodea will be stepping down from the AHAC, as well. Ms. Garcia stated the vacancy for this position will be posted on the County website and she said she would forward the link to the application to all Committee members.
5. **Annual Report:** Alex Mansur took recommendations from the Committee, about the changes they would like to see in the annual report. After a lengthy discussion, it was decided that the AHAC would hold a sub-committee meeting on May 1st. The purpose of this meeting would be to adjust the layout of the annual report, so that the Committee can capture one to three incentive strategies that make the most impact in encouraging affordable housing. The sub-committee meeting will also focus on presenting these high priority strategies to the BCC before the submission of the annual report.
6. **Public Comment:** Joe McAnarney spoke about the multi-family project being developed on CR 208 and he said the County Commissioners are being flooded with applications for affordable housing. Judy Spiegel asked if the BCC passes agenda items right away or if staff is involved in this process.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:10 p.m.