

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

September 18, 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 3:04pm by Chair, Alex Mansur.

Members Present - AHAC:

Greg Burke - residential home builder
Orville Dothage – banking/mortgage banking industry
Alex Mansur – citizen actively engaged in areas of labor in home building
Mike O’Donnell - HFA Chair/citizen actively engaged as an advocate for low-income persons
Judy Spiegel – citizen actively serving on local planning agency
Karl Vierck – citizen actively engaged as a real estate developer

Members Absent - AHAC:

Roy Alaimo - locally elected official
Drew Geisel – St. Johns County resident
Bill Lazar – citizen actively engaged as a not-for-profit provider of affordable housing
Harry Maxwell – citizen actively engaged as a for-profit provider of affordable housing

Guests Present:

Suzanne Clulow – St. Johns County Resident
Joe Cone - Assistant Director, Health and Human Services
Jenny Harvey - Manager, Housing and Community Development
Charlie Hunt – St. Johns County Resident
Michelle Myers – Support Staff, St. Johns County Housing
Juliette Maronel – Support Staff, Health and Human Services
Amy Ring – Special Projects Manager, Growth Management
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:** A **motion** was made by Orville Dothage to approve minutes of the August meeting; motion seconded by Greg Burke. **The motion passed unanimously.**
3. **Administrators Report** Jennifer Harvey reported to the committee that the DPA (Down Payment Assistance) program was open and accepting applications. All information pertaining to the program can be found on the Housing web page. Ms. Harvey also reported that St Johns County will be applying, for the FY (Fiscal Year) 2024, Pathways to Removing Obstacles in Housing. This grant program is funded through the US Department of Housing and Urban Development for the West Augustine Housing project. This item will be on the BCC (Board of County Commissioners) agenda for the October meeting. The county contact is Kristin Odom Crane, who can be reached at 904-209-24041 or kcrane@sjcfl.us. Staff will send out Kristin's contact information. Ms. Harvey also informed the committee that several county staff were present to discuss the development of the Villages of New Augustine, leasing opportunities will be available to the public in the very near future. The committee was made aware that a visit from APD Urban Planning and Management will take place in October, the HFA (Housing Finance Authority) will be invited to attend the AHAC (Affordable Housing Advisory Committee) meeting on October 16, where APD will give a 30-minute presentation. Joe Cone wanted to publicly thank Vicki Pepper and Susan Clulow for the nice words given at the BCC (Board of County Commissioner) meeting on September 17th. Mr. Cone also introduced Juliette Maronel, who will be the new administrator coordinator for the Health and Human Services Division.
4. **Annual Report:** A discussion ensued amongst the committee, to discuss and finalize a plan for the annual report draft. There were multiple additions and deletion suggestions during the discussion. Alex Mansur will take all suggestions into consideration and build the final draft. The draft will be finalized and voted on at the October meeting. Mr. Masur thanked everyone for coming prepared to the meeting and putting in all the time and effort into this year's report.
5. **Vacancy Recommendation:** Michael O'Donnell recommended Polly Crabtree, as the newest member of the AHAC, all committee members were in favor of the recommendation. This recommendation will go in front of the BCC on October 8, 2024.
6. **Public Comment:** Susan Clulow spoke on the 56k homes that were approved to be built in St. Johns County, Ms. Clulow would like some information on who owns these empty lots and where they are located. Ms. Clulow would also like as much information as possible on the Public Housing Authority, and why it was voted against by the BCC. Charlie Hunt spoke to the committee about the confusion surrounding the definition on affordable housing. A conversation ensued by the committee on the multiple definitions of affordable housing.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:06 p.m.