

Housing Commission

WORKGROUPS

Mission / Charges / Priorities

August 23, 2022

Shared and Vacation Rental – Workgroup #1

- Mission:
 - Determine strategies to strengthen the Center City’s viability as an option for long-term rental and home ownership, while providing rental companies with an economically feasible path to the transition of their business plans to a new paradigm.
- Charges:
 - Address the pending “Enrollment Cliff’s” likely effect on the student housing business model.
 - Speed transition to long-term rental or new home ownership through the educated engagement of student rental landlords
 - Strategize market-connective and consensus-driven solutions to the over-saturation of student housing in a declining market
 - Address likely maintenance concerns posed by unsuccessful rental businesses
 - Baseball / Air B&B/ VRBO Rental
 - Limit the impact of short-term rental on the neighborhoods by proactively addressing the potential of unbridled investment in housing stock for the 3-month period.
- Priorities:
 - Create a fact-based foundation for education and planning by engaging experts, examining documentation, and determining resources regarding the pending “Enrollment Cliff” and its probable effect locally.
 - Determine the strategies of the two colleges and their likely impact on the Student Rental Market
 - Develop a campaign to educate current and potential landlords
 - Address the above charges (and more) with strategies that address each in a holistic fashion that engages the community, the other workgroups, and the city as needed.

Infrastructure Utilization – Workgroup #2

- Mission:
 - Investigate, catalogue, and prepare for promotion Oneonta’s untapped or “hidden” developable parcels, and determine strategies to successfully engage the owners of known but under-utilized housing infrastructure.
- Charges:
 - Identify potentially available/convertible buildings
 - Catalogue developable land and determine a marketing mechanism
 - Address the disinclination of landlords to maximize potential of upper floors and empty buildings
 - Identify the challenges and determine assistances/ strategies
- Priorities:
 - Determine current hurdles faced by Planning and Development Department regarding current stock and upper floors.
 - Strategize assistances
 - Identify vacant properties
 - Determine “back story” for each and strategize resolution
 - Catalogue developable parcels
 - Identify and address concerns for each
 - Create a mechanism through which parcels enter the marketplace
 - Address the above charges (and more) with strategies that address each in a holistic fashion that engages the community, the other workgroups, and the city as needed.

Neighborhood Improvement – Workgroup #3

- Mission:
 - Through a combination of education, assistance, community engagement, and enforcement, change the trajectory of our neighborhoods to be more well-kept and appealing.
- Charges:
 - Advance opportunities and educate homeowners, re: historic designation
 - Determine and catalogue houses of concern
 - Aid Community Development in determining and implementing Housing Conditions Survey data
 - Liaison with OPD and Code Enforcement to assist in determining strategies for house-by-house, block-by-block improvements in appearance and security.
 - Identifying a strategy to address and identify long-term community-based leadership
 - Non-profit org, local group, other?
 - Example: Fulton Block Builders

- Determine the parameters of a supportive role and/or expansion of Code Enforcement
- Priorities:
 - TBD
 - Address the above charges (and more) with strategies that address each in a holistic fashion that engages the community, the other workgroups, and the city as needed.

Affordable Housing – Workgroup #4

- Mission:
 - While the focus of Oneonta’s Housing Commission is the creation of “Market Rate” housing for an expected influx of new residents via the city’s recruitment efforts, there MUST be a concurrent expansion of “Affordable” housing options. Every member of the Oneonta community should be able to find a safe, clean, and reliably maintained place to live. It is the mission of this workgroup to help make that expectation a reality.
- Charges:
 - Determine new avenues to the creation of low income / affordable housing
 - Assess and address the need for veterans’ housing
 - Assist City Planning and Development Department in their efforts
 - Identify and expand implementation assistance – Fair Housing
 - Provide support in the determination of Housing Grants
 - Liaison with the city and community for collection of Housing Conditions Survey Data
 - Aid with housing grants pre-applications and waiting lists
 - Create a baseline of reasonable costs for basic amenities and maintenance
 - Determine the city’s minimum expectations of landlords and any potential for their enforcement
- Priorities:
 - Interface with the city’s Community Development Specialist to determine a workflow for assistance
 - Meet with Veterans’ Groups and advocates for Affordable Housing to determine a baseline of needs and potential actions
 - Address the above charges (and more) with strategies that address each in a holistic fashion that engages the community, the other workgroups, and the city as needed

Senior Housing – Workgroup #5

- Mission:
 - A significant number of Oneonta’s population continues to age-in-place, which tends to be an isolating and even unsafe proposition. By determining and promoting options, from the

development of senior-specific living facilities in the city, to the identification of financial and logistical assistances, to the engagement and support of the community, we can offer a better quality of life for our seniors, while potentially moving some of our currently occupied housing stock to the market.

- Charges:
 - Identify financial and logistical avenues to support “aging in place” locally
 - Determine potential new and reimagined current living spaces.
 - Strengthen the surrounding age-supportive infrastructure.
 - Explore a low cost or volunteer “Handy Person” program for light maintenance
 - Determine other assistances through community partnerships and grant support
- Priorities:
 - TBD
 - Address the above charges (and more) with strategies that address each in a holistic fashion that engages the community, the other workgroups, and the city as needed

Refugee Resettlement – Workgroup #6

- Mission:
 - Whole populations will continue to find themselves in the paths of economic, political, and climate upheaval, and subsequently searching for asylum and sanctuary. This will put them on the doorsteps of “welcoming communities” such as Oneonta. It is our mission and our duty to be prepared for their arrival and supportive of their success in our city.
- Charges:
 - Interface with Refugee Resettlement Program
 - Provide updates to *Review Panel*
 - Represent the City in helping to determine housing and partnership opportunities
- Priorities:
 - TBD
 - Address the above charges (and more) with strategies that address each in a holistic fashion that engages the community, the other workgroups, and the city as needed

Smart Growth – Workgroup 7

- Mission:
 - The purpose of the workgroup is to work creatively (and without preconceived expectations of success or failure given by precedent) to respond to Oneonta’s housing challenges by researching, developing, and respectfully communicating innovative and equitable policy

strategies and/or reforms. It is the expectation that an open and transparent dialogue among stakeholders, city officials and members of the public will generate new, modified, or expanded policies that will foster “smart growth” of our housing stock.

- Charges:
 - Determine the current impediments to the goal of creating city-wide availability to Market Rate and Affordable housing.
 - Create a hospitable, nurturing environment for housing growth and development through specific proposals for legislative and/or policy adjustments.
 - Identify incentives to attract development and expand our housing stock
 - Develop and promote partnerships with agencies and institutions that share the city’s goal of expanding our housing opportunities
- Priorities:
 - Determine a non-partisan, fact-informed baseline of challenges to Oneonta’s housing success.
 - Engage in respectful dialogue, encompassing of wide-ranging and diverse viewpoints, to determine proposals for legislative or other changes.
 - Address the above charges (and more) with strategies that address each in a holistic fashion that engages the community, the other workgroups, and the city as needed