

Senior Housing Work Group
City of Oneonta Housing Commission
2 February 2023
Meeting Notes

Present: Bob Brzozowski, Ellen Fallin, Andrea Ronovech, Tamie Reed (and Mayor Drnek for much of the meeting)

Absent: Nicole Blanchard, Angie Eichler, Peter Friedman, Rachel Jessup

The meeting began at 4:34 PM.

Tamie was elected Chair, Nicole having resigned from that position.

The January meeting notes were reviewed and accepted without changes.

Housing Commission Review: There has not been a meeting of the Housing Commission since our January 12 Senior Housing meeting. The next meeting of the Housing Commission will be on February 8.

Mayor Drnek spoke of the goal for each group is to determine an action item so that the action can make its way to the Commission and, if accepted, on through the procedures of City governance. He also reminded us to make use of the All 4 Oneonta website for dissemination of information.

The Mayor spoke briefly about the Coastal Neighbors Network in Dartmouth, MA, where his brother lives, and how it may be a model for Oneonta. (After the meeting, Bob sent the information to our Work Group members.) Bob mentioned the local Catholic Charities' Aging Life Services program and Tamie the Seniors Assisting Seniors model, as well as Village to Village.

Review of Housing Survey: On January 27 Andrea, Tami, and Bob met to draft the latest iteration of the survey, with special thanks to Ellen and others who submitted suggestions. There were no further changes, though the introduction, how to submit, and the submission deadline will need to be incorporated into both the online and print formats.

The online format will be posted on All 4 Oneonta and can be then posted on various social media sites, websites, shared with friends, etc. A media release will be sent to the Hometown Oneonta and the Daily Star. The print version will be printed by the Office for the Aging and made available at the OFA offices and other sites, such as Nader Towers and Catholic Charities.

Completed paper copies of the survey will be sent to OFA. The deadline for all submissions is March 1. OFA staff and interns will assemble the data from both the printed and digital surveys.

The Boys & Girls Club and Elm Park United Methodist Church are our first choices for a venue for focus groups. We're looking to have two focus group meetings between March 13 and March 18. Tamie will approach EPUMC and Andrea the Boys & Girls Club. We don't expect to be charged a rental fee at either venue.

Tamie will moderate the Focus Group meetings and Andrea will be the recorder.

We worked on the invitation list, hoping to have about 20 persons with diverse backgrounds (about ten for each meeting). We'd like as much contact information (phone, mailing address, email) for the invitees. If you have recommendations for invitees, share them with the rest of our Work Group. Participants need not be residents of the City of Oneonta.

Ellen will work on the wording of the invitations. Tami will format the invitation for email and will have the paper invitations printed and mailed. We're aiming for the mailing/emailing by the end of February.

Information to be shared on All 4 Oneonta should be sent to Bob, who will then forward it to the Mayor.

Bob will contact the City Clerk's office to reserve the Mayor's Conference Room for the first Thursday of the month for the next six months.

The Mayor announced plans for the Housing Commission and guests to tour the Lofts on Dietz during the first week of March. The Mayor said that there is a lot of interest in rentals there and that both the apartments and the Hartwick Grain Innovation Center are scheduled to be occupied by the end of April.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:40 PM.

Meeting notes taken by Bob.