



Minutes

Blue Ribbon Working Group on Affordable Housing

801 Texas Avenue, Thorman Conference Room (Basement)

Tuesday, May 24, 2016

5:00 p.m.

In attendance:

Ray Aauto

Carmen Byers

Bill Schlesinger

Noemi Tovar

Al Velarde

Absent:

All five members in attendance

Staff and Others Present:

Please see attached sign in sheet

1. **Discussion and action on electing the Chairperson of the Working Group**
 - Bill Schlesinger, Executive Director, Project Vida, nominated and unanimously elected by members of the Working Group.

2. **Presentation and discussion on the recent history of Low Income Housing Tax Credit municipal support and expectations of the Working Group.** Presentation by: Mark Weber, Community and Human Development, (915) 212-1682.
 - Members discussed and asked questions on the history of Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) municipal support.
 - NOTE: During the past two years City staff from Community & Human Development recommended scoring criteria for the evaluation of LIHTC proposals to City Council. In 2015, Council approved the recommended criteria. In 2016, Council did not approve criteria and instead gave blanket support to all proposals in the 9% Regional Competitive pool.

3. Presentation on critical resilience factors (systems thinking for Affordable Housing in El Paso). Presentation by: Nicole Ferrini, Office of Resilience, (915) 212-0115

- Office of Resilience provided information on the sustainability priorities of the City.
- Office of Resilience identified critical factors for the evaluation of Affordable Housing projects. Some of the factors mentioned included access to economic opportunities and community connectivity. Also identified that some low income El Paso families would prefer to move into affordable housing within the area that their family is currently located, which might be in contrast to TDHCA and the federal government seeking to build affordable housing in higher income areas.

4. Presentation on locations of strategic development for the City of El Paso. Presentation by: Rafael Arellano, Economic Development, (915) 212-1616

- The Economic Development Department explained the four current, development incentive policies that the Department oversees: Chapter 380, Downtown Sustainable City Centers, Sustainable City Centers Incentives, and Infill incentives. Also explained the use of tax incentives for the rehabilitation of historic buildings and neighborhoods.

5. Discussion on meeting calendar for the Working Group

- Working Group agreed to meet every Thursday at 7:30am for the next seven weeks.

6. Identification and discussion of items for future agendas

- Working group decided to further discuss their participation in an affordable housing facilities tour hosted by developers who regularly participate in the TDHCA 9% Regional Competitive or At-Risk set-aside.
- Working group discussed future presentations on relevant data (Office of Resilience and Community Development Dept.).

7. Adjournment

Chair

Secretary

Date

Date