

## FAIR HOUSING COMMITTEE

March 4, 2009 Meeting Minutes Approved 4.1.09

**Fair Housing Committee members in attendance:** Sheila Mondshein (chair), Henry Korman, Phil Herr, Susan Paley, Esther Schlorholtz, Marianne Ferguson and Doug Sweet

**Staff:** Trisha Kenyon Guditz

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1. February minutes: Approved with one change: Delete CHAPA reference on page 2, paragraph three.
2. Appointments to the Fair Housing Committee (FHC): There has been no movement from the Executive Office on appointing members to the newly established Fair Housing Committee. The group expressed frustration with the delay and stated that the FHC needs to propose terms to the Mayor's spokesperson, Jeremy Solomon.

The FHC agreed that other organizations need to be represented on the committee. Currently, the following entities are represented: the Newton Housing Partnership, the Planning and Development Board, the Human Rights Commission and the lending community.

Doug Sweet will ask Rob Caruso from the Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities if one of their members would like to join the FHC.

The group also discussed asking someone from the Newton Housing Authority to be a representative but several members replied that the Housing Authority has not been receptive to joining City committees in the past. Sheila said she would contact Patrick Dober, Chairman, NHA Board of Commissioners.

Other individuals that were mentioned included Jeanne Strickland (Newton Community Development Foundation), Judy Jacobson (Mass Housing Partnership) and Joyce Moss (chairman of the Community Preservation Committee (CPC)). The group thought that Sheila should talk to Alice Ingerson, who staffs the CPC, about possibly recruiting Joyce.

3. May 4 event: Esther reported that both Jim Campen (Americans for Fairness in Lending) and Len Raymond (Homeowner Options for Massachusetts Elders) have agreed to participate. The event is scheduled to start at 7:00 p.m. and will take place at the Newton Senior Center. The Village Bank and Boston Private Bank will share the cost of refreshments. Esther will serve as moderator and introduce the speakers. She will also get information from the Federal Reserve on responsible mortgage products. Both Campen and Raymond should be asked to bring literature to the event.

Sheila, Esther and Susan will work on the invitation and evening agenda.

Outreach can include:  
HOME Consortium  
Newton Housing Partnership  
Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities  
The Tab  
sandwich boards  
Newton TV  
Mayor's press conference  
Council on Aging (Susan will do)  
CRA officer list  
banks  
realtors' list

4. Changes to Mission Statement: The FHC agreed to the revisions Sheila proposed with some additional changes. Henry asked what happens if the FHC wants to access CDBG funds. The group agreed that Josephine would have to recuse herself since CAN-DO is a beneficiary of CDBG funds from the City.
5. April 30 "Welcoming Communities" event: Esther reported on this upcoming event. Sheila will attend. Ted Hess-Mahan should be invited.
6. Next work projects: CDBG funds for fair housing activities; civil rights checklist, training, input into FY10 CAPER, etc.