



FAIR HOUSING TASK FORCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
8TH FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
APRIL 22, 2009
3:30 P.M.

The Fair Housing Task Force Committee met at the above place and date. Meeting was called to order at 3:40 p.m. Committee Secretary and Fair Housing Officer, Ms. Rhoda Tillman, present and presiding and the following Committee Members answered roll call:

William (Bill) Bennett
Stephanie Dodson, Chairperson
Joel G. Guzman
Lester L. Parker
Patricia White, Housing Programs Manager

Delia Chavez
Larry Garcia
Luz Gutierrez, Secretary
Rhoda Tillman, Fair Housing Officer
Jo Ann Vera, Recording Secretary

The following members were not present:

Mary Cardenas
Alberto Martinez III (excused)

Rev. Lisle H. Davis (excused)
Kelly Sorenson

Lester Park - early departure.

Agenda

1. Roll Call and Confirmation of a Quorum.
2. Introduction and Welcome to new members of Task Force.
3. Review and Approval of minutes from the last Fair Housing Task Force Meeting held December 7, 2005.
4. Review of the new data base on the City's website that provides information on Board and Commissions.
5. Review, Discussion and Action to select the Impediments to Fair Housing Choice that will be researched and reviewed by the Fair Housing Task Force and that will be presented in a report to City Council during the Fiscal Year 2009-2010.

6. Discussion and Action of the process that will be used to research and review the Impediments to Fair Housing Choice.
7. Review and discussion of activities for April in Celebration of Fair Housing Month.
8. Discussion and approval of the next meeting date.

Item 1: Roll Call and Confirmation of a Quorum

Roll call was taken and a quorum was confirmed.

Item 2: Introduction and Welcome to new members of the Task Force

Ms. Rhoda Tillman introduced staff and welcomed the new members of the Task Force and guests.

Members were provided with a packet consisting of: Meeting Minutes of December 7, 2005, Fair Housing brochures, "Fair Housing Equal Opportunity for All" booklets, copy of Ordinance #011469 and #013629, Report to City Council dated April 20, 2004 and city boards/committee website information.

Ms. Tillman discussed the purpose and primary functions of the task force in relationship to the Fair Housing Act, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968. She explained that the purpose of the Task Force is to further fair housing throughout the community. To accomplish this, the committee's tasks are to review the original impediments to fair housing identified by the Department of Community and Human Development staff, add any additional impediments, develop a city-wide strategy to address the impediments and report Task Force's recommendations and findings to City Council.

Ms. Stephanie Dodson, Chairperson, requested each committee member to introduce themselves and include a brief background.

Item 3: Review and Approval of minutes from the last Fair Housing Task Force Meeting held December 7, 2005

Motion made by Larry Garcia and seconded by Joel Guzman and unanimously carried to accept the minutes as written.

AYES: Bill Bennett, Delia Chavez, Larry Garcia and Joel Guzman.

NAYES: None

ABSTAIN: None

Item 4: Review of the new data base on the City's website that provides information on Boards and Commissions

Ms. Rhoda Tillman gave information on the maneuvering of the City's website to view the Fair Housing Task Force Board information.

Item 5: Review, Discussion and Action to select the Impediments to Fair Housing Choice that will be researched and reviewed by the Fair Housing Task Force and that will be presented in a report to City Council during Fiscal Year 2009-2090

Stephanie Dodson stated that the committee would need an opportunity to research and get up to speed with the original Impediments to Fair Housing.

Ms. Dodson requested Larry Garcia to provide some history on how the impediments were divided up into sub-committees and how some impediments were handled as a whole by the committee. Ms. White offered to assist Mr. Garcia with any information he may need in preparing his report to the committee.

Mr. Garcia inquired if the task force considerations were limited to the City of El Paso; Ms. White's response was within the El Paso community.

Item 6: Discussion and Action on the process that will be used to research and review the Impediments to Fair Housing Choice

Ms. Tillman suggested that this item may need to be discussed over the next several meetings as to whether the boards wants to keep the "ABC" sub-committee process or consider a different process in the future.

Ms. Dodson asked Ms. Tillman to provide information on the existing sub-committees to members prior to the next meeting. With this information, committee members may be able to identity which impediments they would like to address and determine if they would like to make changes to the process.

Item 7: Review and discussion of activities for April in celebration of Fair Housing Month

Ms. Tillman explained that the Fair Housing Act was signed in 1968 and that was the beginning of the Fair Housing Month celebrations. In the past, a proclamation was presented by City Council. The last few years there has been an Annual Summit sponsored by the Border Fair Housing and Economic Justice Center. Several task force members participated as well as City fair housing staff. However, this year the Summit has been postponed until later in the year. Ms. Tillman also explained that she does a lot of outreach and education at various community functions all year as well as in April.

Ms. Tillman also explained that as the Fair Housing Officer she is contacted by persons having tenant/landlord issues. When issues entail discrimination under the Fair Housing Act she refers these individuals to the Border Fair Housing Economic Justice Center who assist these individuals in preparing the necessary information to report to the HUD regional office should they wish to pursue a discrimination complaint suit.

Item 8: Discussion and approval of the Next Meeting Date

Ms. Tillman informed the Committee that Mr. Alberto Martinez' was under the impression the board met in the evenings and is unable to attend during the work day. She also informed the committee that Mr. Lester Parker will not be able to attend on Wednesday afternoons due to scheduling conflict. In order to accommodate the majority of committee members, the motion

was made by Larry Garcia, seconded by Joel Guzman and passed unanimously that future meetings will be scheduled at 3:30 p.m. every third Thursday of the month.

AYES: Delia Chavez, Bill Bennett, Larry Garcia and Joel Guzman

NAYES: None

ABSTAIN: None

The next meeting of a whole is scheduled for Thursday, May 21, 2009 at. 3:30 p.m. on the Eighth Floor Conference Room.

Ms. Delia Chavez entered a motion to adjourn. Mr. Larry Garcia seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously

AYES: Bill Bennett, Delia Chavez, Larry Garcia and Joel Guzman

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

Approved as to form:

Rhoda Tillman, Board Secretary

c: All Attendees