Housing Task Force Meeting Minutes

September 22, 2021 @ 11am

Attendees: Interface Studio- Scott Page; AMHA- Erin Myers, Katie Jakubcin, Christina Hodgkinson, Alexandria Poynter, Al Thomas, Tina Morris, Debbie Barry; City of Akron- Dylan Garritano; GSI- Riana Pogue; TLC – Nina Liou; City of Akron Land Bank – Patrick Bravo; Summit Lake CDC – Grace Hudson; Alpha Phi Homes – Al Bragg

- SL has a significant amount of housing: renters make up the majority
- SL historically had a lot of commercial buildings amongst other occupancy, now most are vacant
- Scott gave an overview of data collected for potential land use
- Negative cycle of having to leave the community for everything when residents struggle with rent already
- Nina gave an overview of results from surveys
- Housing Market analysis by Zimmerman/Volk Associates by end of November
- Developer RFP will be issued this month
- Land Use Workshop #2 9/28 at Reach
- Workshop #2 for Choice planned for late October
- Questions by HTF attendees:
  - Does study area include Margaret Park school site – yes, but not the residential on the west side of the lake
  - The current apartments, will they be raised and remodeled? Will it be open to others or only AMHA residents? Mixed income housing? – the goal is to have mixed income housing and start over with the developments, process will help determine what that looks like. Have one-for-one replacement requirement, no displacement of residents.
  - Does this process need partners? – yes, important especially for implementation. Planning process helps to identify and work with partners to develop the plan based on what the community’s needs are
  - AMHA will set up a separate debrief with Al Bragg the new ED of Alpha Phi Homes to get him up to speed on the process
  - How could we fix the issue of transportation? – multi-pronged solution, need to understand more about the transportation issue and then can see what can be done to help address
  - How can we make their environments and rental apartments more “like home”? – interesting to see that residents wanted to make the units more like home for them, more friendly and welcoming
- Group will reconvene in two months with market study and developer RFP plus workshop #2 complete