

A regular meeting of the Leelanau County Housing Action Committee (HAC) was held on Monday, January 8, 2024 at the Leelanau County Government Center.

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 3:23 pm by Chair Lois Bahle.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: L. Bahle, F. Clements, R. Foster, M. Lautner, O’Neill, S. Oriel, T. Wessell

Members Absent: G. Allgaier, P. Hallstedt, C. Noonan, S. Yoder

Members Absent: C. Wood
(prior notice)

Staff Present: G. Myer, Interim Planning Director, J. Herman, Planning Secretary

Public Present: Yarrow Brown

CONSIDERATION OF AGENDA

The agenda was accepted as presented by consensus.

ORGANIZATIONAL ITEMS

Chairman: Bahle opened the nominations.

It was moved by Clements, seconded by O’Neill, to nominate Bahle as Chair. Nominations were closed and Bahle was elected Chair on a 7-0 vote.

Vice-Chair: Bahle opened the nominations.

It was moved by Wessell, seconded by Bahle, to nominate Foster as Vice-Chair. Nominations were closed and Foster was elected Vice-Chair on an 7-0 vote.

Approve 2024 Meeting Schedule:

Bahle noted that the proposed November 11 meeting date is Veterans Day and that the Government Center is closed. Will move meeting date to November 18 if available.

The 2024 meeting schedule was accepted as amended by consensus.

2024 Goals

Members discussed the goals presented by Bahle and suggested the following changes to the document:

#1 Continue to partner with Housing North, Peninsula Housing, Habitat for Humanity, HomeStretch and others on development of obtainable homes and rentals.

#2 Collaborate with Housing North and Leelanau Peninsula Economic Foundation on creation of a county housing action plan.

#3 Disseminate information to townships and villages and agencies on housing issues.

#4 Present an annual update to the County Commission.

#5 Examining a funding mechanism to help support non-profit housing, housing providers, developers, and community land trusts.

PUBLIC COMMENTS- None

STAFF COMMENTS – None

CONSIDERATION OF NOVEMBER 13, 2023 MINUTES

Motion by Clements, seconded by Oriel, to accept the minutes as presented. Motion carried 7-0.

OLD BUSINESS – None

DISCUSSION/ACTION

Updates: Housing Ready Program/steps for the county action plan & Update on HomeStretch, Habitat for Humanity, Peninsula Housing, Home Sweet Home

Bahle said she went to the Marek Rd open house and was very impressed. The first building is ready for occupancy within the month. O'Neill said Habitat for Humanity's New Wave site had an open house. There were volunteers painting and they are accepting applications for occupancy. Bahle explained how the structures are being built efficiently. O'Neill said the thinking behind that is so it reduces the cost of building a home which allows them to build more.

Bahle gave an update on behalf of Larry Mawby for Peninsula Housing. Bahle said Peninsula Housing has begun planning work on the 10-acre site on Herman Rd in Suttons Bay. They hope to have completed community input and have a plan for development by the end of summer. They currently have a family renting the farmhouse on the site. They also have two homes, one in Suttons Bay and one in Northport in the final stages of rehabilitation and families are on track to close within two months. Their duplex in Lake Leelanau, rental management by HomeStretch, is continuing to house the families that were renting it when Peninsula Housing purchased it last summer. Rent is well below market rates. Bahle continued, saying that Peninsula Housing has been offered two homes, one in Suttons Bay and one in Lake Leelanau, so that they can be given the structures for relocation. They are currently working on the Suttons Bay home with plans to move it across the street to a donated piece of property. They have yet to find property for the home in Lake Leelanau.

O'Neill gave an update on Home Sweet Home saying that they have received their first seed grant from Grand Traverse Regional Community Foundation. They are hoping to attract more money as they do not accept government funding; they are motivated by love. His nephew will help design their website.

Other Business

Bahle said on Friday she will be meeting with Leelanau Peninsula Economic Foundation and Housing North to discuss the possibility of creating a housing plan for Leelanau County. Bahle said she read an article that Aspen occupied homes are deed restricted to protect and create affordable housing. Myer will forward the email to members.

COMMUNICATION ITEMS – None

PUBLIC COMMENTS – None

STAFF COMMENTS – None

MEMBER/CHAIR COMMENTS

Bahle encourages members to hand out the 2023 Housing Needs Assessment wage study when they get asked about housing. Clements asked about putting a link on the county website with housing information. Planning staff will add a link to the website.

O'Neill showed members a video on his laptop regarding housing crisis.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned by consensus at 4:00 p.m.

DRAFT