

DRAFT MINUTES

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, no public attendance was permitted. The public was able to view the meeting via Zoom Webinar.

Committee Members Present

Amanda Edwards, Brownie Newman, Parker Sloan

County Staff Present

Jennifer Barnette, Matthew Cable, Brandon Freeman, William High, Andrew Mayronne, Sybil Tate, and Don Warn

Call to Order & Welcome

- Chairman Newman called the meeting to order at 1:11 PM.
- Comm. Edwards made a motion to approve the minutes from the May 2021 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business

- Organization and Program Profiles—Mr. Cable and Mr. Mayronne provided an overview and introductions to organizations and programs that participate in the AHSP.
- Discussion Topics
 - Chair Newman discussed how to provide opportunity for more LIHTC 4% projects in Buncombe County, and leveraging County-owned land for housing and community development. He also discussed how to increase minority home ownership.
 - Comm. Edwards expressed a desire to examine additional strategies for the committee to take on and to have a greater understanding of innovative ideas from other communities. She additionally expressed a desire for examining local affordable housing trends, and reiterated Chair Newman's support for expanding minority home ownership in the county.
 - Comm. Sloan expressed a goal for learning more from community partners regarding energy efficiency, housing discrimination, as well as receiving feedback from staff regarding efficacy of housing project priorities. He suggested inviting the Rocky Mountain Institute to discuss energy efficiency. He added a hope for creating a portal for local housing data to gain a stronger understanding of where housing is occurring in the area.
 - Chair Newman expressed support for exploring different models to lower the cost of home energy costs through a variety of means, as well as how to align the goals of other committees to build a broader approach to home affordability.
 - Mr. Warn gave an introduction of the ARPA funds to the committee and a variety of eligible projects under the program. Chair Newman asked about how staff will provide spending recommendations. Mr. Warn explained that the County is expected to develop a spending plan by the end of August as required by the US Treasury Dept. Mr. Warn anticipates that Treasury will require detailed plans for how the funds will be used.
 - The Committee expressed support for a variety of different topics to explore over the coming year, as well as new project types.
- Resuming In-Person Meetings
 - Chair Newman expressed support for resuming meetings in person, as were Commissioners Edwards and Sloan.

- The July 2021 meeting will be in person. The public will be invited to attend in person, if possible.

Next Steps

Announcements

Public Comment

- No public comment was received prior to the meeting, nor made during the meeting.

Adjourn

Chairman Newman adjourned the meeting at 2:11 pm

Documents

- Presentation