

Chatham County Housing Project

Housing Committee

The Housing Committee will be a time-limited task force with a focus on affordable rental housing. After this task force concludes its work, there will likely be an opportunity to look at the affordable housing element of the Chatham County Comprehensive Plan, and then form an ongoing task force that looks at housing issues comprehensively throughout the county.

Committee Framework

Charge: Use research, data, and expertise available to:

- Identify affordable rental housing challenges that are present in Chatham County and its municipalities.
- Engage with developers, landlords, and community groups to better understand market conditions and potential incentives.
- Compile short-, medium-, and long-term strategies and best practices that will address affordable rental housing challenges in the Chatham County housing market.

Time-frame: Time-limited for up to one year, roughly from September 2016 to June 2017.

Product: A series of affordable rental housing strategies with a recommended implementation plan.

Committee Members: The committee will have up to 6 members, with a community leader as chair and elected officials representing the jurisdictions within the county.

Chair – Dennis Streets, Executive Director of Chatham County Council on Aging

Chatham County Commissioner -

Goldston Commissioner -

Pittsboro Commissioner -

Siler City Commissioner -

Cary Town Council Member - (Participation under consideration)

Expectations of Committee Members: The committee members will be expected to review documents in advance of the meeting and be prepared to discuss them in order to efficiently make collaborative decisions. They are expected to be informed of the needs and opportunities in their jurisdiction, and be prepared to help with implementation. We anticipate this will be a time commitment consisting of two hour meetings, plus preparation, every two months for up to one year.

Staff: It is crucial that one or more county or town staff members be assigned as committee liaison to coordinate meeting logistics, gather information, submit regular progress reports to town and county leaders, and lead implementation of adopted strategies.

Meeting Framework

The committee should meet six times over the period of September 2016 to June 2017 to review information and work on meeting the committee charge. The first two or three meetings can be monthly, as the committee defines issues and gathers information. The strategy-based meetings can occur every two months. The assigned county or town staff member should be the point person for these meetings, with TJCOG staff providing key



information and helping to facilitate the discussion and decision-making. A suggested framework for the meetings is as follows:

- Meeting 1: Define common language around what “affordable housing” means, identify problems and priorities specific to rental housing in the county and towns. Triangle J staff will present information on affordable rental housing challenges and opportunities. Identify knowledge gaps within the committee, and determine what information would be useful to discuss at future meetings. Review and finalize the mission and charge of the committee.
- Meeting 2: Define success - what would solving these issues look like? Identify key outcomes and goals. In between meetings 1 and 2, Triangle J staff will convene a focus group of developers, practitioners, and landlords to informally share ideas and challenges. This feedback will be incorporated into the discussion of key outcomes and goals.
- Meetings 3-5: Focus on one or two of the identified issues at each meeting. For each, clarify the issue, consider best practices and strategies (including through presentations from experts), discuss what would work in Chatham County, and draft recommendations to address that issue. Triangle J staff will compile these recommendations into a strategy toolbox to inform future planning and implementation.
- Meeting 6: Review all recommendations, refine strategies, endorse summary of goals and strategy toolbox, determine implementation plan.

Contact Triangle J project staff with any questions:

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TRIANGLE J COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS