
Next Meeting: Wednesday August 16, 2017 at 200 Henry Johnson Blvd at 4PM and the third Wednesday of every month at 4PM thereafter.

Minutes

Announcements

- Habitat for Humanity has moved to their new offices on Sheridan Ave.
- The Task Force received a “shout out” at the United Tenants annual meeting on June 7, 2017.

Tenant Forum Report Back and Recap

- The tenant forum on June 8, 2017 at 200 S Pearl St was not very well attended. There were only 5 non-task force members in attendance and of the five only two were Albany tenants. The discussion veered too often towards the specifics of those attendee’s housing situations which made it difficult to get an accurate or comprehensive understanding of the issues they have encountered with affordable housing.
- It was agreed among the group that we should reapproach the idea of reaching out to existing tenant groups with ongoing meetings about engaging them in discussion of the issues we have discussed at previous tenant forums.
- Christine suggested a “world café” format for a future meeting, which allows for small group discussion even in a large group setting.
- A number of community groups were discussed and members offered to reach out to them.
- Erin offered to set up a tenant meeting under the auspices of United Tenants, which might be a more effective way to attract attendees.
- It was agreed that the written report back was accurate and that the general format and the questions that were asked at the forum were good and should stay the same for the next meeting.

Continuum of Care Endorsement

- Erin presented the Task Force with the Albany County Coalition on Homelessness’s 10 year plan to combat homelessness. ACCH is looking for endorsement of the plan as part of their efforts to secure federal funding for their homelessness outreach and prevention efforts.
• The plan is the product of 17 months of strategic planning with representatives of the region’s homelessness prevention advocates.

• The new plan is refocused on preventing, reducing, and combating homelessness, rather than simply ending homelessness as that was found to be an unrealistic goal. The plan is designed to provide a benchmark for future action.

• Endorsement would not commit the Task Force to any duties other than possibly advising the ACCH on an as-needed basis. Any such future commitments would most likely come through Erin.

• Endorsements are due by the end of the first week of July so the Task Force decided to review the report and vote on whether to endorse it by email.

• It was decided that a majority vote would rule.