

Disabilities Advisory Commission Minutes January 11, 2016

Present: Chris Kanowitz, John Suess, Taylor Summer, Vern Richardson, Dave McDanel, and Bettie Greenberg

Guest: Angie Shafranek, Loveland Housing Authority

Absent: Zach Wood, John Teumer B.J. Michels, Karlee Keller, and Rich Ball

Meeting Called to Order: 6:02 p.m.

Minutes: John S. moved to approve the minutes; Chris seconded the motion. Motion approved.

DAC Education

Angie Shafranek, from the Loveland Housing Authority, distributed brochures on various LHA properties. She mentioned that a new development, The Edge, is under construction. It will consist of 70 units, and 10 of those apartments will be for veterans. She explained that on new construction, 4% of the units are ADA compliant. In some older buildings, such as Silver Leaf I and II, apartments can be accessed by wheelchairs, but the counter heights have not been adjusted. Maple Terrace does not currently have accessible units, but renovations are being done and 4 units will be accessible. At Mirasol (a 55+ community), all units are zero entry. Residents at any property can request reasonable accommodations, such as grab bars, audible alarms, front loading washing machines, higher toilets, etc.

On how rent works, Angie stated that there is not a simple answer; various funding sources have their own requirements. For instance, rent at Orchard Place cannot exceed 30% of the household income. At other properties, such as the Meadows, rent is specified and there is an income requirements of between 35% and 55% of the area median income. Additionally, there are no firm limits on a resident's assets. For instance, a person might have a relatively high 401(k), but it is the source of his/her income and it could be okay.

Angie also reviewed how the wait list works. For instance, an applicant can request specific properties or turn down living in a specific complex and would not lose his/her place on the wait list. She said that wait list times vary, depending on the property and the applicant's needs. Moreover, since housing is scarce and resident turnover is low, the wait list times have increased. Angie said that the LHA would love to build more housing, but it takes a long time to acquire the land, go through the planning process, and then construct the complex. The LHA started the process to build The Edge over 3 years ago.

The group also talked about how to handle ADA complaints or concerns that it receives from LHA residents. Angie suggested that residents first be referred to their resident managers.

Liaison Reports

DRS Report: Dave said that DRS is figuring out how to spend the money it received to help with housing. They are prioritizing the homeless first. DRS will help with up to \$200 for a deposit or \$150 to help prevent eviction.

City Staff: Bettie distributed DAC brochures for members to use. Members signed a Certificate of Recognition for the Loveland Ford dealership for going beyond what's required under the

ADA to address a sidewalk complaint. Bettie also relayed that the Boards & Commission summit is scheduled for March 3rd at the Rialto Theater room and that 2 members need to attend. Taylor and John S. said that they would attend the meeting. Discussed that if DAC is scheduled for a presentation on DAC's accomplishments, they could use the time to educate the crowd on disability etiquette.

Tasks

Educational Outreach: Chris said that she's taken an inventory of items that she has and would like to resume doing outreach at the ARC Thrift Store.

Disabilities Awareness Events: Bettie said that Zach and John T. spoke to a school that is open to holding a Disability Awareness Event. Members will have to wait for John T. and Zach to provide more details.

Member Education: Bettie said she would provide information on "Effective Communication" for the next meeting.

Other Business

John S. reported that he met with the architect for the remodels of the Fire & Administration Building, where Development/Planning is moving and the Maintenance Operations Center, where COLT is moving. Plans for both were in good shape.

Adjournment: John S. moved to adjourn; Vern seconded the motion. Motion approved.

Adjourned: 07:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Bettie Greenberg, Secretary