

**CITY OF NORWALK  
FAIR HOUSING ADVISORY COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
JUNE 21, 2010**

**ATTENDANCE:** Rev. Ingraham, Chair; Carol Frank, Nancy Burke, Barbara Hudgins, Tim Carney

**STAFF:** Atty. Margaret Suib, Fair Housing Officer

**CALL TO ORDER**

Rev. Ingraham called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m. Rev. Ingraham apologized for not being at the last meeting due to a funeral. He then thanked Ms. Hudgins for chairing the meeting.

**APPROVAL OF THE MAY 17, 2010 MINUTES**

**\*\* MS. FRANK MOVED THE MINUTES OF MAY 17, 2010**

**\*\* MR. CARNEY SECONDED.**

The following corrections were noted:

Page 1, under **FHO's MONTHLY REPORT**, paragraph 3, line 2: please change "impediments" to "Impediments".

Page 2, first paragraph, line 2: please change the following from "wording of affordable housing" to "wording of workforce housing".

Page 2, under **DISCUSSION REGARDING ANNUAL EVENT**, paragraph 1, line 5: please change the following from "The topic would what an AI" to "The topic would be what an AI"

Page 2, under **ADJOURNMENT**, line 1, please change "Mrs. Suib" to "Ms. Suib"

**\*\* THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF MAY 17, 2010 AS CORRECTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**FAIR HOUSING OFFICER'S REPORT**

Ms. Suib said that at the last meeting, the Commission had discussed the details of a potential annual event with Mr. Allan. The proposed scheduling was no longer workable. Ms. Suib said that after discussion with Mr. Allan, it was agreed that someone else could

give the PowerPoint presentation. Ms. Suib said that she was considering possibly asking Atty. Kemple who had spoken to the group before. She suggested a simple luncheon in late September, after the start of school, Labor Day and the Jewish holidays. The Committee agreed that a luncheon would be good. Ms. Burke said that she felt that it would be good for everyone to do a simple self-evaluation on Impediments for Housing. Discussion followed about the details.

Ms. Suib said that she would be participating with the Human Relations Commission and the Housing Authority in seminar for Landlords in the Council Chambers at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 24<sup>th</sup>. The program is geared for an overview of general issues. The discussion then moved to the fact that the Section 8 rents react more slowly than the open market rents to changes in the economy.

Ms. Suib said that she would like to have the programs planned during Fair Housing Month next year.

Ms. Suib said that she has been very busy working on the analysis of the impediments and that she had met with Mr. Sheehan, Mr. Moore and the consultant to make changes on the document. It is still a work in progress. Discussion followed.

There has been much interaction with the Housing Authority on a variety of issues such as those tenants who have had family members who moved out and the head of household has been unable to remove that family member from the lease. Ms. Suib pointed out that frequently the family is already in crisis and having their housing placed in jeopardy because of an adult child's action.

Ms. Suib then gave a very brief overview of a potential case involving a family member who is in a wheelchair and the family's parking assignment. Ms. Suib said that with the family's permission, she would make an attempt to resolve the issue. She pointed out that a request ignored is the same as a request denied.

Ms. Hudgins said that in a recent visit to a friend's condo complex, she noticed that there had been a major increase in the number of residents handicapped parking spaces but no handicapped spaces for visitors that are handicapped.

Discussion about the details of the new case and the issue of handicapped visitor's parking followed.

**\*\* MS. BURKE MOVED TO ACCEPT THE FAIR HOUSING OFFICER'S REPORT.**

**\*\* MS. FRANK SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Ms. Suib said that she would like to bring up the fact that she had not received a report on the Fair Housing budget. She pointed out that it was the Commission's budget and that they should be receiving regular reports on it. Ms. Suib pointed out that it would be easier to know what was being assigned to the budget with the regular reports. She suggested that a quarterly report would be good. Rev. Ingraham agreed and requested Ms. Suib to write a letter requesting the reinstatement of the quarterly budget report.

Ms. Hudgins said that there had been a long, detailed article on the Norwalk Economic Development Agency in The Hour recently. Ms. Hudgins then read a few paragraphs that spoke about Ms. Suib and Mr. Carney, along with two other Agency employees. Mr. Carney said that it was actually Mr. Moore's position that was referred to in the article, not his.. Discussion followed.

Rev. Ingraham said that historically, the Commission usually takes a recess during the summer. The next meeting would normally be on July 19<sup>th</sup>, the third Monday. Discussion followed.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

- \*\* MR. CARNEY MOVED TO ADJOURN.**
- \*\* MS. HUDGINS SECONDED.**
- \*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon L. Solutes  
Telesco Secretarial Services