

Social Services & Community Development Committee  
May 28, 2013 Summary & Motions

Ford called the meeting to order at 11:02 AM. All members were present except Lawless.

*4.30.13 Committee Summary*

On a motion by Beard, seconded by Scutchfield, the summary of the 4.30.13 Social Services & Community Development Committee meeting was approved unanimously.

*Domestic Violence Prevention Board Overview*

Ford called on Commissioner Beth Mills, who introduced Teri Faragher, Director of the Domestic Violence Prevention Board.

Faragher discussed the purpose, mission and goals of the Domestic Violence Prevention Board. She also provided history on the Board. Faragher provided data regarding domestic violence nationally, within Kentucky and in Lexington specifically. Faragher also discussed two grants the Board had received and she provided the annual report of the Domestic Violence Prevention Board.

Stinnett asked about outcomes and results of the efforts to reduce domestic violence. In response Faragher stated that they track results and have linked with a researcher from the University of Kentucky who analyzes arrest data.

*Housing Authority Tenant Relocation Process*

Ford introduced Austin Simms, Executive Director of the Lexington Housing Authority.

Simms provided information on the conversion of the Pimlico Apartments to a Section 8 Rental Assistance Demonstration Program project. He stated that the residents in the 206 unit complex had the option of moving into another public housing facility or they could be provided housing through the Section 8 housing voucher program. Simms stated that so far most of the residents have opted for the Section 8 vouchers.

He stated that the residents should be moved by early fall and the conversion/rehabilitation of the complex should be completed within 15 months.

Myers discussed the relocation process. He indicated that he was satisfied with the relocation policies and procedures used by the Housing Authority. In response Simms stated that the rehabilitation will bring several million dollars into the 8<sup>th</sup> district and improve housing stock.

Beard asked about the relationship with the Public Schools. In response Simms stated that staff with Tates Creek has been involved in the relocation process. He also stated

that the school appears to be flexible in allowing students who relocate out of the school district to return to Tates Creek if they can provide transportation.

Kay asked about the tax credit financing of the project. In response Simms stated that the Housing Authority obtained 4% tax credits. He also stated that the Housing Authority has created a limited liability corporation, and has private investors as well. He stated that the use of those tax credits shouldn't adversely affect any other affordable housing projects in Lexington. Simms stated that the federal shift in support of public housing and affordable housing required the Housing Authority to find creative public and private investment partners, including the Kentucky Housing Corporation.

Akers asked about the tax credits as well as the self sufficiency component of the Centre Meadows complex. In response Simms discussed the tax credit application and the self sufficiency aspects of the new project as well as case management. Simms stated that the Housing Authority does not have a social services/social worker on staff but relies on the Department of Social Services as well as other entities in the community.

Myers discussed the Hope VI model of transitioning residents from subsidized public housing to market rate housing choices.

Myers asked about the wait list for the Section 8 voucher program. In response Simms stated that the wait list was closed in 2010 but there is between 300-400 on the wait list. In response to a question from Myers, Simms stated that the residents for the Centre Meadows will come primarily from the wait list. In a response to a question from Myers, Simms stated that the wait list is made up of people that are residing primarily in sub standards housing currently elsewhere in the community.

Ford discussed the Pimlico conversion process, its purpose and the Housing Authority relocation process. He stated that there is a shortage of affordable housing options and the Centre Meadows project is an attempt to fill part of that void.

### *Small Area Planning Background*

Ford called on Chris King to introduce the subject of small area planning. King stated that a small area plan is an intense study of a specific area and is intended to guide growth and development or redevelopment in the area. King stated that small area plans were conducted in 2008 & 2009 for the Central Sector, the East End and the South Nicholasville Road corridor. He also stated that a North Nicholasville Road study was initiated in 2008 but was suspended due to a lack of neighborhood consensus.

He stated that the plans become a part of the Comprehensive Plan. He stated that Council had allocated \$ 39,000 in UDAG funds in 2012 to assist with a small area plan in the Gainesway area. King also stated that the FY 14 Mayor's Proposed Budget includes \$ 175,000 for professional services, some of which will be used to support small area planning. He stated that the Planning Commission is examining small area plans for

several locations including Winburn, Cardinal Valley, Turfland Mall, North New Circle/Winchester Rd, Citation Blvd, Blue Sky and Avon, in addition to Gainesway.

Akers asked about implementation strategies. In response King indicated that implementation was critical. He stated that most of the current plans include implementation components. He stated that implementation was a joint responsibility Between the public and private sector.

Ford asked how the Council should get involved in small area plans. In response King stated that they can help facilitate and fund implementation, but can also facilitate the public input phase of the plan process.

#### *Committee Referral List*

On a motion by Myers, seconded by Scutchfield, the Housing Authority relocation process was removed from the referral list.

The meeting adjourned at 12:45 PM.