



**Meeting Name**  
**MINUTES**  
**3/16/2017**

**Location: Community Foundation Time: 9:00 – 10:30AM**

Meeting Minutes by: Katie Gibbs

Facilitated by: MaryLou Leonard

**1. Welcome & Introductions**

**2. Approval/Corrections of Past Meeting Minutes & Review of Additions to the Value Statement.** Both approved

Unfortunately John Lowery was unable to join us. He is the Planning Commissioner for Sonoma County and has great experience in housing. He is the former Director of Burbank Housing. We hope he will be able to come to the next meeting.

**3. Updates:**

There was a long article in the Ukiah Daily Journal on a future subdivision of 120 homes on 23 acres on the Lovers Lane property of Paul Dolan and his son Heath. Zach Schat and Doug Guillon, and Steve Honeycutt are involved in the project which will have a pocket park and walking trails. Our member, Justin Wyatt knows him and will try to arrange a meeting with a small group of us to talk about the project, and perhaps suggest the possibility of some lower income housing of some type.

Mary Lou Leonard suggest that our role is one of an umbrella over the general housing subject and we as a group should support any attempts at creating housing for any population.

There was a housing forum in Point Arena last week put on by UC Berkeley students and Jana Jarlsberg a local resident.

Angela DeWitt talked about the recent Housing Forum she put on with the Anderson Valley Housing Association. After the introduction, the 50 people present divided into four groups: infrastructure, community willingness, out-of-the box thinking, and affordability. The Association suggested alternative housing, tiny houses, as a solution to the housing

shortage. They propose to create a package with a few plans, and information how to get permits, list of agencies, resources, and budget. The one drawback might be the people who use this information to create weekend cabins or airbnb's. In any case they are creating community awareness which is beginning to outweigh concerns about development.

The Community Services District in Anderson Valley is working on a project to supply water and sewer to the valley floor, which would in turn, open the valley to development. Educating the community and planning for the future is preferable to leaving it to out-of-town developers.

Jody Johnston reminded us of our value, "Each community is their own expert." Anderson Valley has the advantage that there is an established Housing Association.

We need to make a talk/fact sheet about housing with real information.

Tom Monpere pointed that there have been several projects on Lovers Lane and this one will face multiple challenges, such as ingress and egress, as well as all the county, state and other agency overlays such as CEQA which add enormous expense to any project, and is often used by NIMBY forces. We could try to amend CEQA but it would be like amending the Bible.!

There is a state Senate bill on housing elements under discussion.

RCDHC is trying to create housing for the mentally ill, 36-38 units in Ukiah, and found a parcel which according to the engineer doesn't drain well, so had to be abandoned because of the increased cost.

#### **4. Where do we go from here?**

Let's create a fact sheet. We are promoting housing, not developing it. We need to look at vacancy rates, who needs housing, jobs turned down because of lack of housing, (schools, city, county, hospital, business). Benj Thomas pointed out that according to the city no jobs have been turned down for lack of housing so we need to be cautious to verify our hypotheses.

Everyone is to send information to Maya Stuart, at <mailto:stuartm@co.mendocino.ca.us> (and in the future to the person who will be the new "Housing Czar") who will help create the fact sheet. Jody, Mary Lou, Maya, Benj will draft a fact sheet with the help of any other members who wish to volunteer.

Angela proposed to develop a talk show on KZYX with stories about the housing shortage, one hour interviews which would be an opportunity to gain goodwill and community support. Later we might have a Facebook page.

Lois Lockhart, Tribal Elder, on the sub-committee on housing is also looking for affordable housing for the tribes.

Denise Gorny pointed out that the Mental Health Board has \$1.3M for housing but has yet to find a site, due to NIMBY issues, although there is a new facility in Arcata which was successfully built. We need to be thoughtful and supportive, willing to build and be cautious about road blocks. Our mission is educational.

## **5. Closing Remarks:**

How can we help create cells in each of the communities around the county? Start with what is in place, i.e. Healthy Start in Laytonville, We are a planning group for Healthy Mendocino, but the game plan may be different in different regions. We can provide a model. We can ask good questions.

How do we develop indicators, goals and strategies? How do we keep the momentum?

**Next Meeting:** 4/20/2017