

King County Regional Affordable Housing Task Force
Task Force Meeting - December 7, 2018, 2-4 PM
Kenmore City Hall

PARTICIPANTS

Task Force

- David Baker, Mayor, City of Kenmore (Co-Chair)
- Claudia Balducci, King County Councilmember (Co-Chair)
- Rod Dembowski, King County Councilmember
- Larry Gossett, King County Councilmember
- Ken Hearing, Mayor, City of North Bend
- Rob Johnson, King County Councilmember
- Jeanne Kohl-Welles, King County Councilmember
- Ryan McIrvin, Renton City Councilmember
- John Stokes, Bellevue City Councilmember
- Steve Walker, Director, Seattle Office of Housing (for Mayor Jenny Durkan)
- Leo Flor, Director, King County Department of Community and Human Services (ex officio)

Standing Advisory Panel

- Hamdi Abdulle, Executive Director, Somali Youth & Family Club
- Brett Waller, Director of Government Affairs, Washington Multi-Family Housing Association
- Villette Nolon, Executive Director, Imagine Housing
- Marty Kooistra, Executive Director, Housing Development Consortium
- Dan Watson, Deputy Executive Director, King County Housing Authority

ACTIONS

- The Regional Affordable Housing Task Force Five-Year Action Plan was adopted unanimously.

Welcome

- Co-Chair David Baker called the meeting to order at 2:20 and welcomed the group.

Recap of the Task Force Process

- Chris Mefford provided an overview of the Task Force process, highlighting significant milestones over the past 18 months.

Standing Advisory Panel (SAP) Reflections

Attendees from the SAP were invited to share their reflections on the Task Force process. These reflections included:

- A recent study suggests our nation is currently at a deficit of 1.6 million homes just to meet current demand. While we're in pain we're not alone.
- Regional governance will be our biggest challenge moving forward - how do we overcome local jurisdiction authority for a regional problem? How do we do land use to address a regional problem?
- Need to keep a sense of urgency, especially around equity.
- It is important to address knowledge gaps about affordable housing development for populations in need of housing assistance, and this process has helped.
- Need to clearly define implementation steps.
- Remember that the need around King County varies by region – there's a perception that the Eastside isn't struggling, but it actually is, in different ways compared to Seattle.
- Creating marketing and educational materials for cities outside Seattle would be useful.
- It is important to monitor preservation of existing naturally-occurring affordable housing stock.
- We need to get people in to housing as quickly as possible.
- Request to add a recommendation protecting landlords to make sure people are willing to invest in rental housing.
- This is a significant step for the region, too often communities retreat and say affordability is not their problem. The Growth Management Planning Council (GMPC) is a good ongoing mechanism for collaboration and data sharing.

Review and adopt Action Plan

- Chris Mefford presented draft amendments to the Action Plan.
- The Task Force discussed and adopted nine amendments
- The participants all shared their thoughts on the process, thanking all involved and their hopes for next steps.
- Vote to adopt the action plan passed unanimously.

Next Steps

- The GMPC committee will be chartered, members selected, and a work plan will be created in early 2019.
- The Suburban Cities Association is expected to take up the Action Plan in December.
- King County Council is expected take up a motion to adopt or endorse the Task Force's recommendations in January.
- Meeting adjourned at 3:49.