

**Ferndale Housing Commission Special Meeting Minutes
Of MARCH 22, 2017**

A SPECIAL MEETING of the Ferndale Housing Commission was held on Wednesday, March 22, 2017, at 4:00 pm in the Ferndale Housing Commission Community Room located at 415 Withington (Withington West), Ferndale, MI 48220.

- A. Roll Call: Present: Ann Heler, Jennifer Bentley, Melissa DaSilva, Carol Morency, Deanna Tartaglia, Heather Van Poucker

- B. Approval of Agenda.
Motion by Commissioner DaSilva, seconded by Bentley, be it resolved to approve the Agenda as presented.
Ayes: All
Nays: None
Motion Passed.

- C. New Business: Terri Robertson, consultant from Nan McKay, provided an overview training for board members. She presented the update to the Admissions and Continued Occupancy Policy (ACOP) and the Administrative Plan. These are the governing documents for the Public Housing and Housing Choice Voucher programs (respectively.) There was extensive discussion on preferences, with consensus around preference for Ferndale residents first, then people with elderly/disabled designation. There was not an interest in adding a preference for veteran's because there are many programs in place to serve this specialized group.

There was also extensive discussion around the length of time to look back at an applicant's criminal history. Current policy is seven years, the HUD minimum is 3 years. Van Poucker highlighted that the City of Ferndale removed criminal history question from employment applications, with the goal to reduce discrimination and ensure opportunities for those who have been rehabilitated. She also reported that there is a perception of criminal activity within the buildings; while we need ensure opportunities for vulnerable populations, we need to balance that against our existing residents' need to feel safe in their home. DaSilva felt strongly that we should use the minimum 3 year look-back to provide the widest opportunity to those we serve. Others believed a 5 year look-back would offer a good compromise position, shortening our current period but offering a little more protection for existing residents.

- D. Call to Audience: Ms. Patterson said the meeting was very interesting and had no other comment.
- E. Call to Commission: None
- F. Adjourn. 7:03 pm.

The next regular board meeting will take place on Wednesday, April 12, 2017 at 5:00 p.m. in the Withington West Community Room (Board Room) located at 415 Withington, Ferndale, MI 48220.