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The following are summary minutes for the meeting of the **City of Las Cruces – Housing Policy Review Committee** on March 16, 2022. The meeting was held via Zoom and in Room 2007A at City Hall, 700 N. Main Street, Las Cruces, New Mexico.

Members Present:

- Kasandra Gandara, City Council
- Johana Bencomo, City Council
- Yvonne Flores, City Council
- Benjamin Beard, Las Cruces Home Builders Association

Members Absent:

- Sonja Unrau, NM Mortgage Finance Authority
- Juan Olvera, Mesilla Valley Public Housing Authority

Others Present:

- Natalie Green, Housing Neighborhood Service Manager
- Jan Lauterbach, Housing Development Coordinator
- Kevin Wilson, Housing Development Coordinator
- Rene Romo
- Elizabeth Teeters, Economic Development Director
- Sergio Ruiz, Policy Analyst
- Gerard Anaya, Police
- Paris Rubio
- Nicole Martinez, Director, Mesilla Valley Community of Hope
- Christine Rivera, City Clerk
- Eric Enriquez, Assistant City Manager
- Greg Shervanick:
- Becky Baum, RC Creations, Transcription

1. **Call to Order:** Councilor Bencomo called the meeting to order at 2:10.
2. **Conflict of Interest:** No conflict of interest was proclaimed.
3. **Acceptance of the Agenda:** Motion to accept the agenda by Councilor Gandara, seconded by Councilor Flores. Motion passes.
4. **Minutes for Approval:**
 - a. **Housing PRC Meeting of January 19, 2022:** Motion to accept the Minutes by Councilor Gandara, seconded by Councilor Bencomo. Motion passes. Councilor Flores abstained.
5. **Action Items:**

1 **a. Uniform Housing Code and Nuisance Abatement Ordinance:** Tabled to
2 another meeting. The Board needs Legal present in order to discuss it.
3

4 **6. Agency Spotlights:** Rene Romo stated that the latest message they have about
5 directions of congressionally directed spending for the next round is that it will be
6 a slightly evolving situation as further instruction from Senate leaders comes in.
7 He is happy to send the information to any nonprofits or those who need it.
8 Announcements were made of wins for the community which were for several
9 projects in Doña Ana County. Some projects included was \$1.5 million for the
10 Doña Ana County emergency operations center and \$350,000 for the rapid DNA
11 program for the Sheriff's office. He suggested the Board consider submitting a
12 request for some earmarked related to housing. Mr. Romo doesn't have concrete
13 ideas but Natalie Green and her team have many projects; money can be put in
14 for engineering, construction, land acquisition, and etcetera.
15

16 **7. General Discussion:**
17

18 **8. Future Items for Review:** Councilor Bencomo stated that she and Ms. Green
19 planned out a draft for the next few months' worth of meetings. April would
20 continue to discuss the income discrimination and mitigation fund and finalize for
21 voting in May. The form of how someone pays rent shouldn't be discriminated
22 against. Other future topics of discussion include infill zone for affordable housing
23 especially as it relates to fees and incentives for developers, electrification for low
24 to moderate income households. There was discussion on the infill being
25 affordable/attainable housing or the City purchasing or leasing land from the BLM
26 or the state. Currently the discussion on affordable housing is directly related to
27 how to incentivize developers. Additional conversation on funding sources and
28 land acquisition can be added to the list.
29

30 There are many agencies that have dived into housing or have done substantial
31 changes in their programing. Ms. Green would like to have them come and give
32 updates for the future agency spotlights, specifically FYI Plus and El Calvario.
33 Other potential agency spotlights include developers involved in the upcoming
34 developments. Nicole Martinez gave an update on HUD; the Continuum of Care
35 grant awards were released yesterday. Community of Hope and other nonprofits
36 have secured \$1,019,634 for housing; all projects were renewed with a few at a
37 higher rate. The Desert Hope project was also approved for a sustainable position
38 on the property. Ms. Martinez read what she had said at the public comment
39 meeting for supporting the GO Bond.
40

41 The dates on the GO Bond meetings are March 16th at 6:00 pm at Doña Ana
42 Community College. There will be a break between meetings to account for spring
43 break. Mr. Romo asked Ms. Martinez to e-mail him her statement; she will. The
44 other dates of the GO Bond meetings are March 19th at 9:30 am at Brannigan
45 Cultural Center, March 31st at 12:00 pm and at 6:00 pm at the Council chambers,
46 April 5th at 12:00 pm and 6:00 pm at the Frank O'Brien Papen Community Center,
47 April 12th at 5:30 pm at Sage Café, April 19th at 5:30 pm at Las Cruces Utilities
48 Center Boardroom on 680 N. Motel, and April 7th at 6:00 pm.

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9. Adjournment: Motion to adjourn the meeting by Councilor Gandara, seconded by Councilor Flores. The meeting adjourned at approximately 3:37 p.m.


Chairperson

Approved: April 20, 2022