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MAYOR'S COMMISSION ON COMMUNITIES OF COLOR
Minutes
December 10, 2018

Present: Chair Kym Young (4:29 pm), Stephan Witherspoon, Jerel Benton, Rani Gill

Excused: Natasha Lancour

Absent: Pat St. Germaine

Also Present: Police Chief Nick Alexander, Jeff Skrenes, Housing Coordinator for the City.

1. Chair Young opened the meeting at 4:29 pm.

2. Approval of Minutes of September 10, 2018 Meeting.

Motion by Benton, seconded by Witherspoon, to approve the Minutes of November 5th meeting, with the correction that Superior Police Department do have riot gear, but is very rarely used. Motion passed.

3. City Housing Coordinator – Jeff Skrenes

Jeff Skrenes introduced himself as the new City Housing Coordinator and was hired 2 months ago. He is from North Minneapolis and spent the last 19 years working on housing issues in that area, specifically as a mortgage loan originator. His focus has always been low-and-moderate-income first time buyers.

After getting hired by the City, he bought a distressed home and is working to restore it to its' original character. His priorities with the City of Superior include bringing back a down payment assistance program for first time buyers. Also to explore ways to help existing homeowners with renovations and repairs, and to identify vacant homes that can pair with rehab developers.

Jeff talked about a Down Payment Assistance Program for first time home buyers, but it is a very difficult program to access, catered more towards professionals, rather than citizens. He also discussed rentals to home ready buyers and educating the first time buyers on what to expect, how the mortgage works, etc. Minnesota has an on-line course and One Roof Community also offers a one hour counseling session.

Council
2/5/19

Jeff will basically be working programs to rehabilitate the existing housing stock in Superior, increase the single family home ownership and work on strengthening the neighborhoods by working with other City departments. No action.

4. Mutual Aid Agreement with Duluth Police Department.

Police Chief Alexander handed out the Standard Operating Procedure Policy for Emergency Response Team. It is an old policy which has not been updated since 1994. The intent of this Team is to respond to incidents that are beyond the scope of normal police operations. The Team has about 10-12 batons, shields and are deployed at incidents involving a barricaded suspect, hostage situation and any other event determined by the Shift Commander to be dangerous and not practical to be handled by the regular police officers.

Chief Alexander would like to start the review process to update the Policy and would like to work with this Commission to make it current. No action.

5. Commission Representative to attend Police & Fire Commission Meeting.

Benton volunteered to be the Commission Representative to attend the Police and Fire Commission Meetings, as time allowed. No action.

6. City's webpage for Commission.

Information regarding the Commissioners is on the City's website. No action.

7. New Members ?

Geraldine Castilla Carbonell

Patricia Staine

Benton said he is looking for somebody else from UWS.

8. Any other business.

2019 Items for consideration:

- a. Have a working relationship with the City Council.
- b. Training for Commissioners
- c. MLK Day holiday - attend School Board meeting to ask them to consider at their meeting on Jan. 21st.

9. Next meeting Monday, January 14, 2019 @ 4:00 pm, in Room #300.

10. Meeting adjourned at 5:23 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Rani Gill

Chief of Staff to the Mayor