

The Mandan City Commission met in a Joint Meeting with the Bismarck City Commissioners at 5:15 p.m. on October 13, 2015 in the Tom Baker Meeting Room in the City/County Office Building, 221 North 5th Street, Bismarck, ND. Present for the Mandan City Commission were Mayor Van Beek, Commissioners Tibke, Rohr, Laber, and Braun along with City Administrator Neubauer. In attendance for the Bismarck City Commissioners were: President Seminary, Commissioners Grossman, Guy, Marquardt, and Askvig (participated by telephone).

NEW BUSINESS:

Joint meeting with City and Bismarck City Commissioners to discuss the HANNA:KEELAN ASSOCIATES Housing Demand Study. The Board of City Commission of Mandan and the Board of Commissioners of Bismarck considered the request to receive the Bismarck and Mandan Housing Demand Analysis from Hanna:Keelan Associates, P.C.

Lonnie Dickson, Hanna:Keelan Associates, appeared before the Board of City Commissioners for Bismarck and Mandan. He presented the Executive Summary of the report.

Mandan Commissioner Tibke said she appreciated the outline of the action steps so the two communities can work together instead of this study just sitting on a shelf. It's great to start with the high action items then move on from there. Mr. Dickson said those steps walk the two communities through the process for the next fifteen years. Mandan Commissioner Laber said on Page 10, action step six, they wrote to routinely inspect rental housing units to ensure minimum standards. She said with the housing market as it is, you can see people living in housing units that are dilapidated and targeting those inspections and making sure we are doing the right thing for our citizens. In her mind, that should be a short-term goal. Mr. Dickson said this can be controversial but he's seen it work in large and small communities. He also said some residents won't complain especially if there isn't much other housing available or it's more than they can afford.

Bismarck Commissioner Guy brought up the tri-annual health assessment conducted by Bismarck-Burleigh Public Health and area medical centers. They polled the community as to what the community felt their health needs were and the number one economic factor affecting the health of our community is lack of affordable housing. She would like to meet with the Mandan counterpart to explore what that housing partnership might look like and see what our high priority recommendations are and how we might solve them.

Mandan Commissioner Rohr asked how we can go about allowing for affordable housing. Mr. Dickson said that is why they have the rental housing inspection process. Every community has buildings with deferred maintenance and communities need to be proactive to prevent that. Citizens are looking for three and four-bedroom housing options and looking at converting existing housing is an option.

Bismarck President Seminary said this is a unique meeting of both commissions. There is some big stuff here and more than we anticipated, so he thinks we should agree to

move forward with point person for each commission. Separately we need to discuss what should we do out of the study and then get back together at some future time to be determined. Bismarck Commissioner Grossman was wondering how we break this down into manageable parts and that's just what Bismarck President Seminary suggested. The enforcement aspect makes him wonder how many employees we would have to add to carry that out. So we should start with the manageable parts and go from there. Mandan President Van Beek said they would take that under advisement for their next meeting over in Mandan.

Mr. Dickson said it's not just municipal housing but also the other stakeholders in the community. Bring each of the representatives together. Bismarck Commissioner Guy said when she looked at the draft study; it's big and all encompassing. It's meant to be done over 15 years, not all at once.

The Board of City Commissioners of Bismarck and Mandan adjourned at 5:52 p.m.

FUTURE MEETING DATES FOR BOARD OF CITY COMMISSIONERS:

1. October 20, 2015
2. November 3, 2015
3. November 17, 2015 – 4 p.m. Service Awards

/s/ James Neubauer
James Neubauer,
City Administrator

/s/ Arlyn Van Beek
Arlyn Van Beek
President, Board of City
Commissioners