

Alachua County Advisory Boards

Annual Work Plan / Accomplishments Report
FY2022-23

Date of Report: July 19, 2023

Board/Committee Name: Affordable Housing Advisory Committee (AHAC)

Chairperson: RD Bonnaghan

Board Liaison: Stephen Weeks

Staff Support: Stephen Weeks

Brief History of Committee: The Alachua County Affordable Housing Advisory Committee (AHAC) was established in May 2008 by Resolution 08-040 in response to the mandate in s.420.9076, F.S. that recipients of State Housing Initiative Partnership (SHIP) funds form Affordable Housing Advisory Committees. The CDBG Citizens Advisory Task Force (CATF) was eliminated and the responsibilities for CATF were incorporated into AHAC's role. In recent years, especially through the COVID-19 Pandemic the committee has undergone some restructuring, recruitment of new members, and a transition in leadership. As Affordable Housing grows in importance nationwide and continues to be a priority and conversation topic of interest at the Federal, State, and local levels, Alachua County's AHAC has positioned itself to add to our scope of work beyond the Resolutions and Mandates associated with SHIP and CDBG grants, to explore strategy with County Commissioners and Staff, and to bring insights, relevant experience, and recommendations from the unique positions held by members of the committee.

Mission Statement: The Affordable Housing Advisory Committee evaluates Alachua County policies and procedures in order to recommend affordable housing incentives targeting regulatory reform and assists the County with developing and implementing projects funded by the Florida Small Cities Community Development Block Grant Program.

Major Accomplishments in 2022-23:

1. Board Recruitment - The FY began in October of 2022 with a 4-member board, which did not meet the requirements of the committee per bylaws. Recruitment has gone well, with the board currently composed of 9 active members. Meetings now regularly have quorum.
2. Elected officers for the upcoming year.
3. Reviewed the LHAP per statutory requirements and forwarded recommendations to the BoCC.

4. Reviewed existing list of escheated properties and began the process of suggesting recommendations for an updated policy for conveyance of county properties and surplus lands. (Ongoing)
5. Reviewed existing requirements for Community Engagement related to housing projects and began the process of compiling committee recommendations. (Ongoing)
6. Board members were educated on a number of topics related to housing and to the committee and its structure, including Sunshine Law, BoCC priorities regarding geographic parameters around housing projects, past and/or active housing projects (Budget Inn, Harbor Cove, Dogwood Village, Woodland Park), and other relevant topics, including HFA funding and parameters, cottage neighborhoods, local nonprofit housing providers and their services, and inclusionary housing.
7. Offered feedback and suggestions regarding the pilot Alachua County Energy Efficiency Program and planned to meet with staff again prior to transitioning from the pilot to the full program.

Goals & Objectives for FY 2023-24:

1. Maintain an active board and officer structure that engages members, and the community at-large on housing issues.
2. Meet requirements the board was founded on.
3. Serve as a liaison between the community at-large by representative to consider any and all housing projects under consideration by the County.
4. Review housing plans, priorities, and policies with an eye toward promoting affordable, equitable housing across our community in alignment with current County plans and priorities.
5. Meet with the City's AHAC for a joint meeting.
6. Consider additional ways to engage the community.