

**COMMUNITY HOUSING TASK FORCE
MEETING
(Special Session)
February 10, 2004**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Joe Udall
Carie Allen
Jim Davidson (Excused)
Linda Flick
Jack Hannon
Teresa Brice-Heames (via phone)
Greg Holtz
Sean Lake (Excused)
John Poulsen
Jeff Rogers
Maynard Schneck
Marty Whalen
Stephanie Wright (Excused)

STAFF

Kit Kelly, Community Revitalization
Ruth Anne Norris, Housing Services
Donna Hunter, Housing Services
Lisa Wilson, Neighborhood Services
Deanna Villeneuve-Saucedo, Outreach
Bill Petrie, Code Compliance

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Keno Hawker, Mayor

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Joe Udall welcomed those in attendance and explained that due to time constraints, members of the organizations that wished to address the Community Housing Task Force (CHTF) should appoint a spokesperson. There would be time for two or three people to speak. The Task Force will discuss the issue and make a motion that clarifies how the Housing Master Plan (HMP) will address manufactured and mobile homes. Time will then be allowed for citizens to comment.

DISCUSSION OF GOAL THREE

Kathleen Kelly gave a brief summary of what led to the special session. The Community Housing Task Force (CHTF) was created to establish the HMP, which planned the future of housing stock in Mesa. The CHTF included people that represented and had an interest in housing related issues in Mesa. The CHTF established some Target Housing Goals for Mesa. The General Development Committee approved the goals and asked the CHTF to forward their plan to the City Council. In the meantime, an article, "Mesa Targets Mobile Homes" was published in the Tribune. Because of the article quite a few citizens of the manufactured and mobile home community came to the meeting to voice their concerns. At issue was the language contained in target goal three, which stated, "Replace at least 50% of mobile homes age 25 years or older". Many readers had concerns that the goal would ban pre-1979 mobile homes in Mesa.

Since the article was published, there have been two public meetings to discuss citizen concerns with over 120 (combined) attending. The Task Force reconvened to use the input received from the citizens and incorporate them into the plan. The CHTF recommended deleting goal three, moving the narrative to the appendix and also used the

term “housing units” instead of “homes” in goal four. Housing units would include any type of dwelling such as single-family houses, multi-residences, duplexes, mobile homes and/or manufactured homes. This would be incorporated into Target Housing Goal four.

Marty Whalen had concerns about replacing at least 50% of mobile homes in 25 years. He thought that the number should be 75-80% but agreed to move to adopt staff’s recommendations. Linda Flick seconded.

Mr. Udall then led the group in further discussion. Mr. Holtz felt that goal three should be deleted and that the narrative, which seems derogatory, should not be incorporated into the appendix. Mr. Udall added the suggestions as an amendment to Mr. Whalen’s motion. Mr. Whalen suggested that it should be decided by the future Housing Board.

Ms. Brice-Heames suggested placing the narrative in the HMP where it describes various types of housing. The group then discussed where the narrative should be placed. Mr. Holtz stated that his goal was to delete any item in the document that isolates, singles out or gives a negative connotation to mobile and manufactured housing. Ms. Brice-Heames agreed, stating that she hoped the City of Mesa would recognize and validate this type of housing as a choice that people want and are proud of. They want that to continue in our community.

Mr. Udall then restated the motion to delete the offensive portion of goal three and move the narrative to another part of the plan (at staff’s discretion) because the two paragraphs give an appropriate description of manufactured housing.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

A few citizens gave comments regarding the HMP. Neal Haney of Manufactured Housing Communities of Arizona addressed the Task Force. He appreciates that manufactured and mobile homes will be treated as any other type of housing but voiced concern over being singled out in the document. The manufactured and mobile home communities in Mesa just want to be treated as any other housing type. Alice Davis stated she was concerned because the majority of people in her mobile home park are from other areas of the country and come here for the winter. These people maintain their mobile home as a second home. They can’t afford to buy an expensive house or pay apartment rental. The language of the HMP could keep them from returning. She doesn’t want to see that happen. Mr. Udall thanked them for their comments and stated that the motion addresses these citizen concerns.

Mayor Hawker thanked the citizens for their attendance and comments. He also thanked the CHTF for reconvening and for the recommendations. He felt the motion would please those of the manufactured and mobile home community.

DECISION ON GOAL THREE

Mr. Udall asked the CHTF members to vote on the motion and amendment. It passed unanimously.

Mr. Holtz had other concerns for the plan but they failed due to a lack of a second.

The meeting adjourned at 5:56 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ruth Anne Norris, Housing Services