

Indivisible Durango-Civil Rights Committee
Minutes
August 16, 2017
Commons Building #308 (above Alpine Bank)

Attending: Linda Daniel, Chair; Rollie Butler; Richard Butler; Lynne Sholler, Secretary; Kathie Adkins and guest Elizabeth Salkind (SW Housing Solutions)

7/19/17 Minutes were approved with amendments (adding "other" to end of member questions on skills they have; deleting "Richard willing to organize" as none of us remembered what that was; and the date of the "next meeting" being today).

Letter to Editor

Rollie circulated a letter for approval based loosely on comments from Jude Harrison; Lynne made a revision. **PLEASE MAKE ANY FURTHER COMMENTS TO ROLLIE BY MONDAY 8/21 AND LET HER KNOW IF YOU WISH TO INCLUDE YOUR NAME IN SUPPORT.**

Questionnaire

There was confusion from Indivisible Leadership – we created our questionnaire, then Leadership circulated a different one to every committee, which later was withdrawn. We decided to proceed with calling our committee members with the questions we previously assembled. We split up the committee list; each member who attended this meeting shall make calls and report on the responses at the next meeting. (Names where necessary, but i.e., "3 people agree on X and 5 on Y." Questions are as follows:

- What is your most significant interest related to civil rights?
- Are you interested in attending meetings with others regarding that issue?
- If you are not interested, why not?
- What skills/interests do you have to assist this sub-committee?
 - submitting CTA's
 - researching bills
 - letters to editor
 - clerical/spreadsheets
 - event coordination
 - posting flyers
 - organizing marches
 - sign making
- what days/times are best for meeting?
- how often do you think the subcommittee should meet?
- how do you want to meet?
 - face-to-face meeting
 - phone meeting
 - virtual (Zoom, Face Time, Skype)

Leadership Structure

Richard will chair the September meeting (put agenda together, circulate it and minutes, and run the meeting). The agenda for the next meeting will include the leadership chair/sharing structure, the questionnaire results and updates on the legislation we've been tracking. [If something arises that seems imperative before the next meeting, email the others between meetings].

Guest: Southwest Housing Solutions – Elizabeth Salkind, Executive Director

SWHS covers 5 counties regarding the basic need of housing: if one does not have housing, it's hard to succeed in education, health, employment, etc. It is now a more focused agency. "Affordable" housing is subjective based on personal perspectives, including home ownership, rental etc. There are different government standards for defining "affordable" and "attainable." Regarding percentage of home ownership, the USA is 41st in the world; the 16th in the Western world. Regardless, individuals need stability whether they rent or own their home. In CO, 47% of renters pay more than 1/3 of their income on housing. Many are "one paycheck" away from homelessness leaving them in a precarious position. In CO and SW CO, wages have been on a slow increase. But higher minimum wage does not necessarily mean they receive more pay: They may wind up working less hours when hourly wages increase. The cost of living increases more than wages, thus, people are closer to one paycheck away from homelessness.

SWHS has a staff 19; they serve a couple thousand people yearly (homeless, chronically homeless and families). The Regional Housing Alliance is now dormant – Now they are the Homes Fund. They work with home ownership and down payment assistance. SWHS does develop housing – about 100 affordable housing units to date, including a 19-unit apartment facility for seniors in Archuleta, a 5-unit dorm style facility for youth and transitional housing while they attend college. They have some Section 8 and SSI units. SW Center for Independence works with them – all disability oriented housing. For the disabled, they are on fixed income, where domestic violence victims, their income may change. Elizabeth is on a CO state legislative housing committee which has a strong focus and on some level, they are gaining traction on affordable housing. Local efforts are more challenging – a lot of talk but the time table is hard to track; council are basically volunteers with full-time jobs elsewhere. The County has been excellent in their efforts. SWHS can access funding, but local commitment is needed. SWHS can do things like help a senior with a leaky roof problem as a stop gap measure, but gaining housing units is harder. 80-120% of poverty level is one standard used in some programs; another is 30-80% of median income (\$50K+/- per household). There are 500 units in Durango that are subsidized – greater than most communities.

Future meetings w/Guests

We allocated 15 minutes for our guest speakers. Each of them took the majority of the meeting, making our agenda unfinished. We decided it wasn't fair to ask them to be limited to 15 minutes, but rather, give them 30 minutes, and ask them to attend maybe once a quarter instead of monthly, and INCREASE those meeting times by 30 minutes in order to complete our agenda. As it was, two members had to leave early, and half of our agenda was not covered.

Next meeting TUESDAY 9/19/17 5:00-6:30 at Crossroads Building (above Alpine Bank) #308. EACH OF US WHO RESEARCHED LEGISLATION SHOULD FOLLOW UP ON THEM TO SEE IF ANY ACTION HAS OCCURRED AND WHETHER A CTA IS NEEDED.

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