

Affordable Housing Report submitted: September 15, 2024
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Middle Rio Grande Housing Collaborative (MRGHC) Update

The MRGHC met on Thursday, August 22, 2024 after a 3 month hiatus from their last meeting on May 9, 2024. In the interim, Serg Martinez, one of the original MRGHC members had resigned and was replaced by Steve Anaya. The following MRGHC members were present at the August meeting: Talia Friedman, Dan Majewski, Lawrence Rael, Ian Robertson and Steve Anaya. The Interim Chair, Talia Friedman asked for nominations for Officers for the MRGHC and the following persons were elected: Talia Friedman, President; Dan Majewski, Vice-Chair; and Ian Robertson, Secretary.

Updates and Action Items: The Middle Rio Grande Council of Governments (MRCOG) has agreed to be the Fiscal Agent for the MRGHC and a draft agreement is being finalized. The MRGHC finalized and approved the Executive Director position job description as an action item. It was also agreed that the MRCOG will be the official hiring entity for the MRGHC Executive Director but the City and County Human Resources Departments will be responsible for collaboratively advertising the position. The MRCOG will provide office space for the Executive Director.

Also at the August meeting Lawrence Rael was instrumental in encouraging the MRGHC to get prepared to make fiscal/grant requests for affordable housing development at the 2025 New Mexico Legislative Session. The MRGHC members discussed the desire to request an allocation of affordable housing development funds which would then be released via RFI. The intent is to use the State funds as leverage to extend financial support across numerous new and rehabilitated multi-family construction projects. Both the City and County staff will be asked to submit proposed multi-family affordable housing projects by November 15, 2024.

At its next meeting on Thursday, September 26, 3:00pm @ MRCOG, the MRGHC will be seeking more information and education about affordable housing development processes, so they have invited Joseph Montoya, Deputy Director of Housing, City of Albuquerque, Health, Housing and Homelessness Department, to make a presentation at the meeting.
