

Affordable Housing Report submitted: November 15, 2024

Middle Rio Grande Housing Commission (MRGHC)

The MRGHC met at 3:00 pm, Thursday, October 24, 2024 at the MRCOG Board Room. The following MRGHC members were present at the meeting: Talia Friedman, Dan Majewski, Lawrence Rael, Ian Robertson. Commissioner Steve Anaya was absent. Also in attendance was County Commissioner Barbara Baca representing Bernalillo County and City Councilor Tammy Fiebelkorn representing the City of Albuquerque.

Presentations: The MRGHC members heard presentations from Joseph Montoya of the City of Albuquerque, Amanda Colburn of Bernalillo County Housing Dept and Marcos Gonzales of the Bernalillo County Economic Development Department regarding current and proposed affordable housing projects (new construction and rehabilitation/preservation); housing development funding mechanisms and other initiatives.

Agenda Items and Updates: Two applications have been received to date for the MRGHC Executive Director position; and, the position application window will close on October 25, 2024. MRGHC Chair Friedman recommended that a special meeting be held to discuss those applications. Commissioners then discussed the formation of subcommittees. Commissioner Ian Robertson will head the MRGHC Education subcommittee and recruit speakers to provide presentations on housing development and financing mechanisms to the MRGHC members. Dan Majewski will be the liaison contact for housing developers reaching out to discuss prospective affordable housing projects for the consideration of the MRGHC. Other anticipated Subcommittees are a Finance Committee and a Bylaws Committee. A second presentation at this meeting was focused on showing the draft elements of the new MRGHC website (mrcog-nm.gov/663/Board). The MRGHC website is currently posted on the MRCOG website, but it will eventually be a 'stand alone' website. Discussions regarding the last two Agenda items – MRGHC Bylaws and Legislative updates were tabled and will be discussed at the next meeting.

The City of Albuquerque and Bernalillo County Governments have separately passed Resolutions that identify each entity's 2025 NM Legislative Priorities for addressing the need for affordable housing and the homelessness crisis. These Resolutions encourage collaboration with the NM Governor's Housing Office as well as the NM Legislature and list priority projects and community initiatives for which each entity is seeking funding.

The next MRGHC meeting date will be Monday, November 25 @ 3pm at MRCOG Board room.
