

COMMUNITY INPUT MEETING NOTES

Thursday, November 4th, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

Via Zoom

DISCUSSION PROMPTS

- Thoughts about affordable housing
- Concerns about affordable housing
- What you like or don't like
- Vision for future
- Other suggestions

COMMUNITY MEMBER COMMENTS/INPUT – *Note that the comments below were received from participants during the “breakout room” portion of the meeting and are not commentary from CEHA staff. These comments help us better understand our community perception of affordable housing and what our constituents value and prioritize for housing in Eureka.*

BARRIERS

- Based on poll, more people seemed more focused on low-income persons than on homeless or higher income residents
- A lot of challenges (in subsidized housing) with navigating paperwork, annual inspections, rules, requirements, etc. that creates a barrier
- Mental health issues, trauma also play a significant role; Need more housing combined with supportive services; won't succeed in housing without support (especially homeless)
- Frustration that rents are beyond what's affordable even for students and workforce
- Housing crisis (availability and affordability) across every level up through workforce
- A lot of money coming in (the County) but we don't see it going to development
- It's a complex issue
- Ever-present nimbyism
- Challenge to get developers (missing piece) and bring all the right pieces together
- Participant would like to see more support for tiny homes
- Countering the anti-small-house rhetoric, generally being more supportive across the board, but specifically for the houseless (as highest priority)
- Remove judgement, give support

AVAILABILITY

- Affordable housing is needed. There is not enough.
- People who could otherwise afford to pay (at higher levels) still can't find housing because there aren't available units
- Concern for increase in student population and resulting housing competition.
- Eureka didn't really build much after the '60's
- CEHA should put energy into creating more housing → important.

- Concern about housing for older adults (not enough available)
- Desire for the City of Eureka and the City of Eureka Housing Authority to work more collaboratively and synergistically (i.e. parking lot project).

REPOSITIONING CONCERNS

- Repositioning sounds good. Is there a downside?
- Redevelopment of the large site will require planning.
- Concern that repositioning means more reliance on private landlords and ultimately more barriers to those who need affordable housing (e.g. competition between programs?).
- Concern that current Public Housing residents would lose their affordable housing as a result of repositioning.
(Note that any PH residents who would require relocation as part of any repositioning activity would be provided a voucher and relocation assistance, so long as they still qualify as a new admission based on screening requirements such as income level, criminal background, etc. and would have the first right to return to rehabilitated or new housing when available.)
- Desire to use existing land in Eureka. New housing development will be essential to meet demand.
- Important to use existing land to provide more units.
- CEHA Role in providing affordable housing is an interesting question.
 - Goes to relationship with other providers of affordable housing.
 - Concern about CEHA being a competitor, while at the same time helping to create more housing.
- Partnering with others should be part of the implementation.

OTHER THOUGHTS & CONCERNS

- Affordable housing is good, and given the current systems, can lead to concentration of BIPOC in affordable housing. How to create housing that is more equitable. DEI should be part of the plan.
- Concern that not all constituents have adequate protections or general needs met (e.g. present housing may not meet current ADA code).
- Concern that subsidy-based housing assistance is a short-term and non-ideal solution to the long-term affordability of housing.
- Need to be creative with solutions
- Desire to help most needy constituents first.
- ADU for Humboldt County project approved, permitting will be easier (pre-approved ADU designs); Reference also container development in Fort Bragg