

Housing Task Force August 2021 Report to Patton Township Board of Supervisors Patton Township Planning Commission and Patton Township Citizens

The 18-member Patton Township Housing Task Force continues to meet monthly by zoom.

- **Final Report and Recommendations**

At its August 17 and forthcoming September 21 meetings, the housing, zoning and visioning subcommittees are working to complete the report and recommendations to present to the Board of Supervisors on Oct. 27. The Task Force envisions this as beginning a broader community discussion that will continue into 2022.

- **CNET Public Service Spots on Housing**

Power point presentations have been submitted to CNET for three public service spots on housing to begin airing in October inviting the community to join the housing discussion. Nicole Pollock, Senior Planner with the Centre Regional Planning Agency and Co-Chair of the Task Force, plans to do the voice overs. Thanks to the Task Force members who crafted the focus and the scripts with Nicole and I: Kate Domico, chair of our visioning group; Stephanie Fost, co-chair of our housing group; Rachel Fawcett, chair of our zoning group; Morgan Wasikonis, Executive Director of Housing Transitions; and resident representatives Steven Rogers and Tony Buda.

- **Visioning Phrase for Patton Township.**

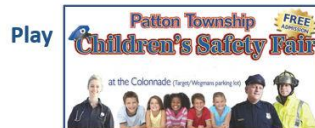
The visioning phrase that emerged as the essence of our housing messaging for the CNET videos—Patton Township: A Place for All—is also being presented to the Board of Supervisors Aug. 18 to consider adopting for the entire Township and worked into the revisions of the Township website and social media outreach.



A Place for All



Live



Play



Work

- **Two Regional Housing Research Studies Under Consideration**

The Task Force has seen a great need for regional research and collaboration on housing and so strongly supports two proposed studies that Jim May, Director of the Centre Regional Planning Agency (CRPA), brought before a joint COG committee and the Centre Regional Planning Commission this month. He received positive feedback on both studies and will be continuing to refine them in the weeks ahead.

One study entitled “*Expanding Housing Choice and Opportunity in Centre County*” would be a market study on ways to increase the inventory of moderately priced housing (attainable housing) for working people in Centre County. It would be funded by the Centre County Association of Realtors and the Central Pennsylvania Home Builders Association. Several members of our Task Force attended their joint zoom meeting in June.

The other study entitled “*Affordable Housing and Homelessness Services Gap Analysis and Action Plan*” would quantify needs for each Centre Region municipality, identify gaps in the availability of affordable housing options, recommend actions to improve the regional housing services network capacity and identify what role (if any) the CRPA should play in delivering any services. This study, if approved, would be funded by municipalities using American Rescue Plan monies.

- **Funding request for four Housing proposals using American Rescue Plan Monies.**

Four proposals have been submitted based on needs identified in our Task Force discussions and in consultation with Stephanie Fost, Director of Habitat for Humanity of Greater Centre County and Missy Schoonover, Executive Director of Centre County Housing and Land Trust.

The proposals ask that approximately ten percent of the \$1.654 million of American Rescue Plan Monies given to Patton Township be allocated to Housing support to benefit Patton Township residents and the community: A total of \$150,000 divided among three projects-- \$50,000 each for the First Time Homebuyers Program; for Habitat for Humanity for buyback and restoration of properties; and for the Centre County Housing and Land Trust for land purchases and the Resident Renters Survey. The fourth project would be the Needs and Gap Analysis Study noted above if it is approved for municipal sharing.

- **Next Meeting September 21, 2021**

The next Housing Task Force Meeting will be from 3 to 5 pm Tuesday September 21 by zoom.

Respectfully submitted by Anita Thies, Patton Township Supervisor and Task Force co-chair (along with co-chair Nicole Pollock, Senior Planner, Centre Regional Planning Agency.)