

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Lana Gordon at 3:30 P.M. on January 28, 2008 in Room 519-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:  
Barbara Craft- excused

Committee staff present:  
Kathie Sparks, Legislative Research Department  
Ryan Hoffman, Legislative Research Department  
Jason Long, Office of the Revisor of Statutes  
Matt Todd, Office of the Revisor of Statutes  
Ann Deitcher, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee:  
Steve Weatherford, President of KFDA  
Ashley Jones, Asst. Program Officer, Greater Kansas City Local Initiatives Support Corp.

The Chair introduced Steve Weatherford who addressed the Committee regarding date from the State Disaster Funds Status Report as of January 25, 2008. (Attachment 1).

Saying that there was tremendous progress to report, he told them about the \$5 million the Finance Council had designated to help spur redevelopment efforts in disaster declared counties around the state. Of this, \$3 million was allocated to help build affordable rental housing units, with \$2 million going to help homeowners repair storm-damaged homes, build new or purchase existing homes.

Mr. Weatherford said that while housing had always been a problem in rural Kansas, it was now becoming a crisis that needed to be addressed. With the average cost of a 1400 - 1600 square foot, 3 bedroom house, being \$80,000 - 90,000, they were finding that insurance was not sufficient for replacement. He said there were between 240 and 250 families in Greensburg, Kansas who were still living in FEMA trailers. This is approximately half of the population.

Questions and answers followed.

Next on the agenda was Ashley Jones who spoke of the involvement of the Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC). (Attachment 2).

Saying how in 2006, LISC sponsored a Kansas Statewide Housing Conference to begin the discussion on housing issues throughout the state, Ms Jones said that this past September, over 350 individuals from across the state took part in their second annual conference.

In hearing this, the Kansas Policy Network decided to hold six regional meetings during the month of November in an effort to identify the housing needs across the state. By expanding and enhancing the current State Housing Trust Fund to meet the needs of Kansans not eligible for federal programs, the available housing options will improve for all Kansans and in turn contribute to the economic vitality of our communities as well as leverage available resources.

Questions and answers followed.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:40 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 29, 2008.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE House Economic Development and Tourism Committee at 3:30 P.M. on January 28, 2008 in Room 519-S of the Capitol.