

**REFRESH 2022 MEETING #4**  
**Draft Whitefish Community Housing Roadmap**  
**MINUTES**  
**October 25, 2022 at 4:00 p.m.**

**1. Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order at 4:05 p.m. by Seana Doherty (Agnew::Beck)

Present: Addie Brown-Testa, Wendy Compton-Ring, Ben Davis, Kevin Gartland, Casey Malmquist, Dave Means, Rebecca Norton, Dana Smith, Katie Williams

Absent: Kevin Abel, Kate Berry, Lori Collins, Rhonda Fitzgerald, Linda Grady, Bob Horne, John Muhlfeld, Ryan Porter

Staff: Alan Tiefenbach, Nelson Loring, Dave Taylor

Consultant: Seana Doherty (Agnew::Beck)

Others: Seven (7) people from the public were in attendance

**2. Welcome:**

City Manager Dana Smith welcomed the Refresh Group to the 4<sup>th</sup> and final meeting.

**3. Communications from the Public:**

Susan Whitworth, Colorado Avenue, is concerned with the lack of public housing, described the challenges with the USDA Housing Voucher program. She is scared about the lack of housing for people and sees out of town people being motivated by money and greed. There are a lot of wrong things happening in town and we are losing good people. People need help now and, while grateful for the group looking into housing, it's not going to help her or others that need help now.

**4. Presentation:**

Seana Doherty, consultant, provided an overview of the process and the plan. Including comments received by the Refresh group to date.

Rebecca Norton: we need to add Emergency Housing *Seana* – *who is the lead and support for this item? She also noted that Emergency Housing is generally not lead by cities but by counties*

Ben Davis: asked about the city funding the WHA and the MOU and how common is this? *Seana* – *this is very common, and she described two other communities where the cities and county provide anywhere from \$50,000 to \$200,000 annually. The value is based on the services provided.* Katie asked for a couple of sample MOUs.

Casey Malmquist: what is the end goal? *Seana described the next steps including the development of a Community Housing Plan and the Financial Plan*

Ben Davis: Would like to move the Community Housing Plan up to a first year versus mid-term 2-5 years; Kevin Gartland and Addie Brown-Testa agreed; Katie Williams noted this is part of the Housing Whitefish (HW) 1<sup>st</sup> year plan; HW will be the lead with others supporting; the group agreed Action 1 & 3 should be merged; Katie also noted HW will be the lead on Alpenglow II

The group discussed various strategies and actions making the following suggested changes:

Strategy 1 – merge Action 1 & 3 with HW as the lead, adding the City in support role and making it a ‘short-term’ item

Strategy 1, Action 2 – changing School District to ‘public partners’ with HW as the lead, adding School District in supporting role

Strategy 2, Action 2 – mill has two l’s, add Annual to this action and show it as an action for all the timeframe boxes indicating this is an ongoing item

Strategy 4, Action 1 – move the City from support role to lead with the WHA

*Seana* noted overall the ‘action’ items are not in any order of priority, but are a ‘to do’ list

## **5. Feedback and Questions:**

Susan Whitworth, again thanked the group for their work and reiterated her concerns for available housing for all

## **6. Close + Next Steps:**

The Committee was asked to provide any additional comments to *Seana* by close of business on October 31<sup>st</sup>.

## **7. Adjourn:**

City Manager Dana Smith thanked the Refresh Group for all their work and invited them to the Council meeting on November 21<sup>st</sup> when the Plan will be reviewed by the City Council. The meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m.