

# **Housing Strategy Committee Report to the City Council**

Regular City Council Meeting

April 7, 2014

On March 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>, Fairweather Consulting, the company assisting the City with the housing study, conducted focus group conversations with the full range of stakeholders, including individual citizen homeowners, neighborhood associations, developers, workforce specialists, bankers, planning specialists, code enforcement, and historic preservation. In addition, each City Councilman had the opportunity to ‘tour’ the consultants through their neighborhoods to provide their perspectives on the issues specifically relevant to them and their constituents.

The results from those interactions show us that our housing issues are complex and do not lend themselves to easy or quick solutions. Without prejudging the consultant’s recommendations, all indications are that the path forward will see multiple approaches to address significant challenges, requiring difficult decisions, to produce creative solutions.

The next steps are an extended period of analysis of data and stakeholder input by the consultants. The results flowing from that analysis will be used by the consultants and City staff to help the Housing Strategy Committee develop a set of recommendations for consideration by this body to address our housing needs.

Bill Boland

Chairman, Housing Strategy Committee