



November 27, 2018

## **AFFORDABLE HOUSING PANEL**

**Moira Quinn, Charlotte Center City Partners**

**Ed Driggs, Charlotte City Council**

**Julie Porter, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Housing Partnership**



To provide ample affordable housing for working people with modest incomes, a development leader told Rotarians that Charlotte must pursue bold ideas. She listed eight, characterizing the need as great.

“If we don’t have enough affordable housing we’re going to have a hard time recruiting new businesses to Charlotte,” said Julie Porter, president of the non-profit Charlotte-Mecklenburg Housing Partnership. “The time for action is now.”

Porter participated in a panel discussion on the city’s dearth of affordable housing along with Rotarian Ed Driggs, vice chair of Charlotte City Council’s Housing & Neighborhood Development Committee.

Moderating was Moira Quinn, chief operating officer and senior vice president of communications for Charlotte Center City Partners.

“Charlotte is an expensive place to live,” Quinn said. The average apartment rent is \$1,400 a month, up 3.79 percent from last year. Thousands experience housing insecurity, which means “living on the razor’s edge of affordability and any event could cause you to lose your home,” she added.

“It’s wrong that people like police and teachers cannot afford to live here,” Councilman Driggs said.

For public policy, he explained, affordable housing refers to shelter that a family making up to 80 percent of area median income can pay for. The Charlotte area median income for a family of four is around \$75,000.

Charlotte voters recently approved a \$50 million housing bond and Driggs said city council has adopted an affordable housing framework to create and preserve such shelter. It also seeks to combat gentrification and protect naturally occurring affordable housing (NOAH).

Still, Porter said, Charlotte needs 21,000 housing units for those who make 50 percent or less of area median income. To scale that hurdle, she said, leaders such as Jim Dulin, retired co-founder of Spectrum Properties, and Michael Smith, president of Charlotte Center City Partners, helped form an Affordable Housing Task Force and an Evergreen Team.

Those working on the effort believe in family stability and economic mobility, she said. Further, they want to make affordable housing available throughout the city, collaborating with the private marketplace, the faith community, the public sector, non-profits and corporate philanthropy.

The task force explores innovative and sustainable affordable housing strategies. It aims to reduce barriers to free market initiatives while helping the private sector, including affordable housing developers and agencies, address the problem.

A task force member, Porter shared the group's eight "bold ideas."

1. Form an affordable housing action team.
2. Create coordinated land policies and construction-ready sites.
3. Create a charitable investment fund.
4. Recruit and facilitate social impact capital.
5. Simplify processes and reduce obstacles to creating and maintaining affordable housing.
6. Acquire and preserve naturally occurring affordable housing.
7. Expand use of creative financing tools.
8. Create an affordable housing strategic communication plan.

Counteract NIMBY, or "not in my backyard," Porter responded to Quinn's question about what Rotarians can do.



"People are worried about affordable housing coming into their community," Porter said. Then she pointed to a slide showing an attractive affordable development. "If we had a lot of voices in support of our work," she said, "that would help."

Driggs added that affordable housing is not for the poorest families, those making 30 percent or less of median income. The Charlotte Housing Authority works with people in that circumstance.

"The housing we're talking about is for people who have jobs and are capable of paying rent," he said.

*Speaker Write-Up:* Elly Clark; *AV:* Jessica Dupree & Tom Bartholomy; *Head Table:* Pat Millen, Mike Hawley, Roger Sarow, Ed Driggs, Julie Porter, Moira Quinn; *Invocation:* Pat Millen; *Visitors & Guests:* Roger Sarow; *Photos:* Sandy Osborne; *Greeters:* Linwood Bolles & Neal Triampo

## **CLUB NEWS**

Assistant Governor Sean Gautam was on hand to present the 2017 Rotary Citation to past president Katie Tyler.

**Bob Webb** is looking for volunteers to serve breakfast on Christmas morning to clients served by Charlotte Rescue Mission. This project was started in 2011 and has become a club favorite. Sign up is available on the club's website: [www.charlotterotary.org](http://www.charlotterotary.org). Click on the Service tab and you will see a sign-up box. You can also send an email to the Rotary office: [sandy@charlotterotary.org](mailto:sandy@charlotterotary.org). Volunteers are to arrive at the Mission between 6:15am and 6:30am. The dress is a white shirt and black pants – a bow tie will be provided upon arrival.



**Phil Volponi** presented the club's donation of \$5000 to TreesCharlotte while planting and maintaining a few trees at Paw Creek Elementary on Tuesday. Thanks to **Phil Volponi, Will Barnhardt, Ed Pickett, Bryce Chambliss** and **Margaret Marshall** for volunteering.

Update for **John Armistead**: vice president financial advisor for Baird, 4350 Congress St., Ste 400 (28209), 704-571-7350, [jarmistead@rwbaird.com](mailto:jarmistead@rwbaird.com).

**Tony Zeiss** and Don Cameron have formed Zeiss Cameron Group to offer coaching and consulting to boards at colleges and universities.

NoDa Brewing Company (**Suzie & Todd Ford**) received the Outstanding Philanthropic Small Business Award at the National Philanthropy Day Award luncheon presented by the Association of Fundraising Professionals.

Make note that the **December 11, 2018 meeting** will be held in the Fellowship Hall at **Covenant Presbyterian Church**, 1000 E. Morehead Street. **RSVP** by December 6<sup>th</sup> to [sandy@charlotterotary.org](mailto:sandy@charlotterotary.org) (or call 704-375-6816). **Suzie Ford, Larry Hyatt** and **J.C. Cousar** will present their HIGWIA (How I Got Where I'm At).

**Rudy Rudisill** gave a shout-out to several for 'doing good.' THANKS to **John Cantrell** and **Glenn Bouley** for organizing the clothing drive for Crisis Assistance Ministry. THANKS to **Michael Orzeck, Michael Wollinger** and **Luther Fincher** for heading up the Rotary Scholarship Golf Classic. And, to all that provided in-kind donations and rounded up door prizes for the tournament.

The club's Facebook page is **Rotary Club of Charlotte**. There are less than 200 members and if you are a Facebook person please join our page and post your Rotary news!

07/01/2018	288
11/27/2018	282
Net Increase:	-6
New Members: Bryce Chambliss, Jennifer Woods	

Visitors	11
Club Members	120
Total	131 (50.6%)

Guests: Sean Gautam, Ahmed Kamel, Stacy Baum, Bill Hammelman, Tim Nilodemus, Roy Lindland, Jacob Horr, Madeline Keeter, Valerie Davis, Moira Quinn, Julie Porter

**BIRTHDAYS** (12/05/18 – 12/11/18)

12/05 John Scharer, Don Carmichael

12/05 David Head, Kyle Woodruff

12/09 Elly Clary

**WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES** (12/05/18 – 12/11/18)

12/05 Catherine & Bob Finley

**ROTARY ANNIVERSARIES** (12/05/18 – 12/11/18)

02 years – Ranjay Sarda

04 years – Glenn Paton

18 years – Cynthia Marshall

**UPCOMING PROGRAMS**

12/04 Carol Folt, Chancellor, UNC Chapel Hill

12/11 How I Got Where I'm At (*Suzie Ford, JC Cousar, Larry Hyatt*) **Meeting at Covenant Presbyterian Church (RSVP by 12/6/18)**

12/18 Holiday Program – InReach Singers (bring your children/grandchildren)

NOT MEETING 12/25/18 and 1/1/19

Photos from our luncheons and other events can be found on Flickr [Click here](#)

**Bert's** Photos will (hopefully) return next week...



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