

Sub-committee: Advisory Powers & Advocacy Relationship-building

Land Access and Opportunity Board

June 4th, 2023, 5:00 – 6:30 p.m.

Meeting Facilitator: Jessica Laporte CRO's

Attendee	Present	Not Present
Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Dan Coutu, VT Commission on Native American Affairs (VCNAA) ● Xusana Davis, Office of Racial Equity ● Kirsten Murphy, Vermont Developmental Disabilities Council 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Brian Cina, National Association of Social Workers (NASW) ● Raheemah Madany, Pride Center of Vermont ● Pastor Arnold Thomas, Vermont Racial Justice Alliance (VRJA) ● Pasifique Nsengiyumva, US Committee for Refugees and Immigrants (USCRI) ● Shingai Kagunda, Vermont Every Town Project ● Britaney Watson, NAACP ● Samantha Langevin, Vermont RELEAF Collective ● Vermont Psychiatric Survivors (no active board member)
Board Alternates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ashley Devereaux, NASW 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Rev. Mark Hughes, VRJA ● Jennifer Morton-Dow, Vermont Releaf Collective ● Rich Holschuh, VCNAA ● Kenya Lazuli, Vermont Every Town Project
Guests & Public	<u>Public</u> : Buster Casell	<u>Guests</u> : None

Agenda & Notes

1. Meeting Convened by Facilitator, Jess Laporte @ 5:35pm	
2. Introductions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Name, Nominating Organization, How long you've been on the board
3. Mission, Vision, and Ideas for Advisory Powers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Kirsten <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <u>Legislative</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Veto session related to the budget, but our appropriation is not in jeopardy, however there may be housing questions or mix-ups related to hotel vouchers ■ A few to dos <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Thank Champions as a board ● Given there are not major changes to committees and chairs in the next session, we should think of which chairs we want to build relationships with (in between sessions in summer and fall) - Mapping connections ● Prepare for the next ask - What is it? How to socialize it? ○ <u>Advisory Powers</u>

- How to break it down into bite size pieces
 - Advising on housing policy broadly across different entities → Mapping of what the landscape looks like and → hone in on a few places (agencies, departments and projects) we want to begin and → identify which programs or policies are key
 - Eg. Housing Finances Agency - invite them in, learn more and then review their programs
- Jess shared 2 resources
 - statute [Act 182 - Section 22](#) (Page 35 of 65)
 - [Summarized Contact List](#) (Google Sheets access available upon request)
- **Dan** - Affordable housing is a major challenge
 - for younger people this day, 1) how can we afford a home or 2) how to find a
 - Eg. Companies who purchase in bulk (corporate landlords) and then renting at high rates - the affordable family homes are being picked up as rentals and people who would have purchased are now renting
 - Should we advocate for legislation to curtail or limit corporate landlords are unable to monopolize the market
- **Xusana**
 - Many factors that impact housing (minimum lot sizes, land use or local development review board, etc) happens on a local or municipal level?
 - How are we going to be effective at impacting land access, land use and housing issues since we work on a state level?
 - How does legislation impact local zoning and practices?
 - Beyond rules, how do we influence culture at a local level
 - Then there are also always federal policies... it feels far away, but do we want to collaborate with our federal representatives?
- **Kirsten**
 - Learning - invite key informants to present/join the subcommittee
 - Eg. Rep. Tom Stevens moved S.100 which can make it easier for municipalities to revise zoning and land use - He may have ideas of where to go next
- **Dan**
 - Affordable housing development has almost always translated to rental properties - not a long-term solution
 - Capital Golf Course has been purchased by the city and is up for consideration
 - Kirsten
 - Early meetings on that were classic “not in my backyard”
- **Buster** - Workforce housing is critical but often is overlooked. Many groups can benefit when we focus on putting housing where people need it for work.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Jess - Two scales/levels <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Advocacy - legislators, key committees, etc. ○ Advisory Powers - ● Kirsten <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Land access for agricultural use or housing - barriers are extra high for people from marginalized groups (language, bias, difficulty with paperwork, etc) and points of contact with those programs to collaborate with them to improve their processes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Xusana - just because programs are created doesn't mean that they're accessible. Eg. healthcare access office, similarly Vermont Ethics Network helps to make them more understandable ● Dan - Is there a place for folks to go to help navigate all the options <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Jess - Some agencies have information on their programs but likely not each other. ○ Kirsten - Some offer courses to learn about the process. However, they are not very accessible (technical language, no other languages offered, etc) ● Jess <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ LAOB has potential to become a navigator - gather what's available and help people access them ○ Kirsten - and when programs are ready, could grant to an organization who can be a navigator and what grants can be made to fill existing gaps.
<p>4. Advisory powers</p>	<p>Can we take a stab at categorizing these organizations?</p> <p><i>Vermont Housing and Conservation Board (VHCB)</i> <i>Vermont Housing Finance Agency (VHFA)</i> <i>Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets (VAAF)</i> <i>Departments of Financial Regulation and of Housing and Community Development</i> <i>Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund (VSJF)</i> <i>Vermont Finance Agency (VFA)</i> <i>Vermont State Housing Authority (VHA)</i> <i>Vermont Economic Development Authority (VEDA)</i> <i>Vermont Agricultural Credit Corporation (VACC)</i> <i>Working Lands Enterprise</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Buster - all of them should be discussing housing and agriculture/land use, but their not in contact or collaborating → <i>Can we use our advisory powers to bring these people together?</i> ● Dan - learning more about these programs and initiatives will help generate ideas and hone how we want to engage with them.
<p>5. Gathering next steps</p>	<p>ADVOCACY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Thank Champions as a board (Kirsten & Jess)

- Draft Form letter
- Each board member personalizing with who they are, where they are and why they're reaching out
- Map legislators to connect with for next session around 1) appropriations and 2) policy

ADVISORY POWERS

- Gather information and fill out contact list (**Jess then push off**)
 - Names and contact for each
 - Website
 - Enabling or governing statutes
 - Where do you get your \$\$ from? State, federal or hybrid public/private funding
 - Where do your policies lie? Federal agency, state document/plan, vs. state policies (may be harder to find)
- Outreach - Introductions and invitation to learn more
 - Introduction letter with background on LAOB
 - LAOB statute, Sunrise Report. Priorities
 - Ask Questions
 - What are your programs related to housing and land ownership?
 - OR What are your programs that are related to the LAOB's work and priorities?

WHEN AND HOW TO MEET?

- Working sessions may be difficult to do on the line live
- **Meet again 5-6:30pm on Monday 6/12 and Thursday 6/29 5-6:30pm**
- *Note: Social Equity Caucus meets Thursdays at 4:30pm*

6. Meeting Adjourned at 6:35pm