

San Juan County Housing Advisory Committee (HAC)
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, May 13, 2026
Hybrid Meeting
Meeting was conducted in-person at the Legislative Hearing Room
and via phone conference (Microsoft Teams)

MINUTES

In attendance: Anne Bertino, Vice Chair, Pat Castillo, Nancy DeVaux, Melora Hiller, Angie Lausch, Barbara Starr, Farhad Ghatan, Chair

Staff: Ryan Page and Lori LeCount

Council Liaison: Kari McVeigh

Guests: Paul Fischburg, Interim Director, San Juan Community Home Trust; Lisa Byers, Meg Felso, Board Chair, United Way San Juan County

Absent: None

I. Meeting called to order at 10:30 a.m. by Farhad Ghatan

II. Approve Agenda

Agenda is accepted as presented.

III. Approve Minutes

Approval of Minutes – Motion to approve minutes of the April 8, 2026 meeting, with a correction to the name of the San Juan Community Home Trust.

Motion: Melora

Second: Anne

Approved.

IV. Public Comments/Announcement: Jess Blanche has been hired as the new director of the San Juan Community Home Trust; she starts June 15th. Ms. Blanche is currently looking for housing for herself and her family.

V. Housing Program Coordinator Updates: Ryan Page

- a. There were no applications for funding when a window for requests was opened. There is now a request for funding from United Way. They are planning for a 7 day a week program. They are requesting funding targeted for an 8 month per year program coordinator for a cold weather shelter on San Juan Island. Ryan is directed to extend the deadline for applications for the cold weather shelters on Orcas, San Juan and Lopez.
- b. Levy lid lift failed to pass. Balancing the budget will be challenging per councilmember Kari McVeigh. All non-mandated programs are on the chopping block. Ryan indicated that new programming may be limited.
- c. Ryan heard from the Department of Commerce that the County's 5-year Homeless Plan meets all of Commerce's requirements.

- d. Joint Town/County Councils task force meets May 14 to address affordable housing issues.

VI. Home Fund 2026 Draft NOFA

Ryan presented a draft of the Home Fund Notice of Funds Available and the scoring sheet and an application for Operations and Maintenance Funding. Discussion of what should be included in the operations and maintenance funding such as appliances, maintenance reserves, and management fees.

VII. OPAL Lydia Lane Request Letter

OPAL made a request for Lydia Lane, a 5-unit ownership project near Rosario on Orcas, to change the income restrictions from 80% AMI (low income) to 115% AMI (moderate income) and change in the length of the period of restrictions from 99 to 40 years.

Approval of Minutes – Motion to recommend the County Council approve the changes requested by OPAL and recommended by staff

Motion: Farhad

Second: Melora

Approved

VIII. Affordable Housing Community Survey Questions Rough Draft

Ryan presented a rough draft of the Affordable Housing Survey, goals of the survey, the plan for distributing the survey. There was a discussion of desirability/necessity of asking racial demographic questions, adding an introductory paragraph, and respondents' connection to the county.

IX. Closing Remarks

X. Next scheduled meeting: June 10th, 2026

XI. Meeting Adjourned at 12:02pm