

MINUTES FOR HOUSING COMMISSION MEETING

DATE: Tuesday, April 12, 2022
TIME: 4:00 p.m.
PLACE: Housing and Community Development Department
350 West 6th Street; Dubuque, IA 52001

Chairperson Rick Baumhover called the meeting to order at 4:08 p.m. following staff assurance of compliance with Iowa Open Meeting Law.

Commissioners Present: Rick Baumhover Gail Weitz
Amy Eudaley Margie White
Renee Kehoe Sam Wooden
Charlene Turpin (Arrival 4:15 p.m.)

Commissioners Absent: *None*

Staff Present: Gina Hodgson Karla Escobar
Tonya England Hollie Ohnesorge

Public Present: Ashley Noonan Jennifer Walker

Certification of Minutes – February 22, 2022, Housing Commission Meeting

Commissioner Amy Eudaley moved to approve the Minutes for the February 22, 2022 Housing Commission Meeting with the following change:

Under New Business, Item A, third paragraph, change “Commissioner Eudaley moved to approve the Minutes for the December 14, 2021 Housing Commission Meeting.” to “Commissioner Eudaley moved to approve the setting of the Public Hearing for April 12, 2022.”

Commissioner Gail Weitz seconded. Roll call. Seven (7) in favor. Motion passed.

Oath of Office – Renee Kehoe

Renee Kehoe read the Oath of Office.

Oath of Office – Charlene Turpin

Charlene Turpin read the Oath of Office.

Correspondence/Public Input

None

New Business

a. Public Hearing to Receive Public Comment and Approve FY22 PHA Annual Plan

Commissioner Sam Wooden moved to open the Public Hearing to Receive Public Comment and Approve FY22 PHA Annual Plan. Commissioner Renee Kehoe seconded. Roll call. Seven (7) in favor. Motion passed.

Gina Hodgson, Assisted Housing Supervisor, summarized the Annual Plan for FY22:

- Data for voucher acceptance and vacancies are being collected for licensed rental properties.
- Landlords have an opportunity to ask for information about the Housing Choice Voucher program on their rental license paperwork.

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- A consultant was hired to create the Equitable Poverty Prevention Plan.
- The City created a new department--Office of Shared Prosperity, which will focus on equity and inclusion in neighborhoods.
- Work is being continued to re-brand the Housing Choice Voucher program.
- Administrators meet monthly with landlords and Friends of Fair Housing.
- An online briefing was created for housing assistance programs.
- The voucher payment standards were updated and the exception rents were reviewed. (*Exceptional rent areas will be based on zip codes 52002 and 52003 instead of census tracts.*)
- The City runs background checks for landlords for free; arrest records were removed from background checks.
- A new software is currently being implemented for the Housing Choice Voucher program.
- Essential documents were translated into other languages—Spanish & Marshallese.
- The City participated in the childcare coalition; a consultant was hired and a survey was mailed.
- Work is being completed to identify a long-term plan to provide food for families

There were no public comments.

Commissioner Eudaley moved to close the Public Hearing to Receive Public Comment and Approve FY22 PHA Annual Plan. Commissioner Gail Weitz seconded. Roll call. Seven (7) in favor. Motion passed.

The Housing Commission did not have any recommendations for changes.

Commissioner Eudaley moved to approve the FY22 PHA Annual Plan. Commissioner Wooden seconded. Roll call. Seven (7) in favor. Motion passed.

Reports

- Community Development Advisory Commission Repor

No Report

- Rehab Report

Karla Escobar, Financial Specialist, spoke about the properties that are currently being rehabilitated. She highlighted several properties:

- 2407 Queen Street will be listed for sale in May.
- 351 East 15th Street was sold on April 1.
- 1559 Washington Street will be listed for sale next year.
- 2601 Jackson Street is being used as a relocation property.

The energy savings program has been completed for 17 applicants and 34 applications are pending results from SHPO. Thirty-two (32) people have received assistance with their rental leases.

- Assisted Housing Waiting List Statistical Summary

Hollie Ohnesorge, Assisted Housing Coordinator, stated a new report will be coming for the Waiting List Statistical Summary. The Moderate Rehabilitation program will be ending on October 22, 2022; the current clients will be transferred to the Housing Choice Voucher

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(HCV) program. The Project Based Voucher (PBV) program is being purged; many applicants on the PBV Waiting List have become eligible for the program.

For the Housing Choice Voucher program, 50 applicants were pulled from the HCV Waiting List; two weeks later, 25 applicants were pulled for Non-Elderly Disabled (NED). The waiting list for the HCV program will be opening in the late summer utilizing a new software.

d. Continuum of Care Special Needs Assistance Program (CoC SNAP)

Ashley Noonan, Regional Homeless Coordinator with East Central Intergovernmental Association, announced the Continuum of Care Special Needs Assistance Program (CoC SNAP) will be ending as of June 30, 2022. Of the current 12 households, 1 household self-resolved and 11 are interested in another voucher program. Seven (7) of the households would like to have a resource meeting. The participants may request an appeal as part of the grievance process.

Information Sharing

a. Iowa Legal Aid – HUD Grant for Fair Housing Testing

Commissioner Weitz spoke about Iowa Legal Aid receiving a grant to hire a tester for cities in Iowa--Dubuque, Iowa City, and Davenport. They will be testing landlords that do not accept the Housing Choice Voucher with a concentration on complaints.

b. Commissioner Baumhover announced the resignation of Commissioner Hilary Dalton.

c. The next regular Housing Commission meeting will be held on July 26, 2022.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Commissioner Weitz moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Wooden seconded. Motion passed by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 5:09 p.m.

Minutes taken by:


Tonya England
Recording Secretary

Respectfully Submitted:



Gina Hodgson
Assisted Housing Supervisor