

MINUTES OF HOUSING COMMISSION MEETING

DATE: 25 March 2014
TIME: 4:00 PM
PLACE: Housing and Community Development Department
350 West 6th Street, Suite 312, Dubuque, IA 52001

Chairperson Holz, following staff assurance of compliance with Iowa Open Meeting Law, called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm.

Commissioners Present: Amy Eudaley Rick Baumhover Ricardo Woods
Anna Fernandes Robert McDonell Jim Holz
Sister Dorothy Schwendinger, OSF

Commissioners Excused: Patricia Foster

Staff Present: Janet Walker Cpl. Scott Koch Jessica Kieffer
Erica Haugen Teresa Drury

Public Present: David Wall

Review and Certification of Minutes of 28 January 2014 Commission Meeting

Commissioner Baumhover motioned to approve the minutes. Commissioner Woods seconded. All others present in favor. Motion passed.

Correspondence/Public Input

None

Old Business

Abstaining From a Vote

At the January Housing Commission meeting, Alvin Nash asked for clarification on abstaining from a vote. Teresa Drury asked Kevin Firnstahl via email: Is it a requirement or an option for a Commissioner to abstain from approving minutes from a previous meeting if that Commissioner did not attend the previous meeting? Kevin Firnstahl provided his response via email stating: No on both counts. A commissioner should still vote to approve minutes from a previous meeting even though they didn't attend it. They could still have suggestions or changes/corrections to the minutes. Any abstention requires a reason be stated. (e.g. conflict of interest). Further discussion ensued and some Commissioners ultimately did not feel comfortable voting "Yes" if they did not attend the meeting.

Discussion of Current and Proposed Preference Point System

Jessica Kieffer presented information pertaining to the current waiting list. She presented a comparison of the waiting list sorted by preference points versus the waiting list sorted by date/time of application. She noted that with the current preference point system, all elderly and/or disabled households must be pulled from the wait list before a single non-elderly or single non-disabled household. Twenty-two households are remaining on the waiting list from CY2011, 131 households from CY2012, 607 households from CY2013 and 80 households from CY2014. The proposal is to do away with the preference point system and strictly go by the date and time applicants applied. There was much discussion about keeping the preference points pertaining to the Transitional Housing Program for the homeless. Janet explained that HUD will look at our policies/plans and if we have designated any preference points in our administrative policy; it has to be in response to a need that is identified in the consolidated plan for the City of Dubuque.

Vice Chairperson Schwendinger motioned to eliminate all preference points and sort the waiting list by date/time

of application. Commissioner Eudaley seconded. Commissioners Baumhover and Fernandes voted yes. Commissioners Woods, McDonnell and Chariperson Holz voted no. With a vote of 4 to 3, the motion passed.

New Business

Review of Fiscal Year 2015 Budget Proposal.

Commissioners received information regarding the Fiscal Year 2015 Budget. Erica Haugen gave a brief overview of the budget, goals, objectives and performance measures. Janet Walker informed the Commissioners of the hiring freeze and we are not currently replacing the most recently retired inspector. The number of voucher participants was down to 760 as of March 1, 2014. HUD is considering implementing a 2-year inspection schedule for Housing Choice Voucher participants compared to the current 1-year inspection schedule.

Public Hearing to Receive Public Comment and Approve PHA Annual Plan

Commissioner Baumhover motioned to approve the opening of the public hearing. Vice Chairperson Schwendinger seconded. All others present in favor. Motion passed. Commissioners received a copy of the PHA Annual Plan and the Resident Advisory Board meeting minutes from February 20, 2014. Janet Walker explained the Annual PHA Plan and included information regarding -insufficient funding that occurred last calendar year. Commissioners were inquiring about the Voluntary Compliance Agreement document and Janet suggested we put it on next month's agenda to go through it in detail. Commissioner McDonnell motioned to close the public hearing. Commissioner Baumhover seconded. All others present in favor. Motion passed. Vice Chairperson Schwendinger motioned to approve the PHA Annual Plan. Commissioner Woods seconded. All others present in favor. Motion passed.

Information Sharing

Crime Reports

Commissioners received a summary of Cpl. Koch's crime reports.

NCRC/NAHRO Conference

Commissioners received an invitation to the NCRC/NAHRO conference.

Intercultural Communication Training

Commissioners received an invitation to an Intercultural Communication Training.

2014 Iowa Great River Road Stakeholder Meetings

Commissioners received an invitation to the 2014 Iowa Great River Road Stakeholder Meetings.

Bridges Out of Poverty Conference

Commissioners received an invitation to the Bridges Out of Poverty Conference.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 5:10 pm.

Minutes taken by:

Teresa Drury

Teresa Drury
Recording Secretary

Respectfully submitted by:

Alvin Nash

Alvin Nash
Department Director