

MINUTES FOR HOUSING COMMISSION MEETING

DATE: Tuesday, May 11, 2021

TIME: 4:00 p.m.

PLACE: Housing and Community Development Department
350 West 6th Street, Room 250; Dubuque, IA 52001

Chairperson Rick Baumhover called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. following staff assurance of compliance with Iowa Open Meeting Law.

Commissioners Present: Rick Baumhover
Michelle Becwar
Janice Craddieth
Hilary Dalton
Amy Eudaley

Jeff Lenhart
Cynthia Washington
Gail Weitz
Margie White
Sam Wooden

Commissioners Absent: *None*

Staff Present: Alexis Steger

Tonya England

Public Present: *None*

Certification of Minutes – April 27, 2021 Housing Commission Meeting

Commissioner Janice Craddieth moved to approve the Minutes for the April 27, 2021 Housing Commission Meeting. Commissioner Hilary Dalton seconded. Roll call. Nine (9) in favor; one (1) abstain. Motion passed.

Correspondence/Public Input

None

New Business

- a. Public Hearing to Receive Public Comment and Approve FY2021 PHA Annual Plan

Commissioner Dalton moved to open the Public Hearing. Commissioner Michelle Becwar seconded. Roll call. Ten (10) in favor. Motion passed.

Alexis Steger, Department Director, explained the FY2021 PHA Annual Plan reported the progress of the goals set in the 5-year Plan. Steger stated the Department will continue the effort to meet the needs for quality, affordable rental homes by collecting information on the Housing Choice Voucher through rental licensing, the placement of vacant unit information on the website, and the structure of rental inspections.

Steger highlighted some of the Department's focuses to increase the acceptance of the Housing Choice Voucher, which included starting the implementation of the Equitable Poverty Prevention Plan, providing brochures to landlords, and developing a video. Processes that create barriers to landlords are being streamlined. The following examples were provided by Steger: speeding up inspections, working on last date for proration of payments, getting out payments, and adjusting market rates for payment standards. Steger also mentioned City Staff meet monthly with the Executive Board of the Dubuque Area Landlords Association, which is comprised of seven (7) members.

There was an audit of reports generated for background checks; to decrease disparate impact, the reports were converted to a format that was easier to understand. Steger also reported the demographic data was currently not available for evictions.

The Housing Commission recommended the following amendment for the FY2021 PHA Annual Plan:

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On Page 6, under "Sub Goal: Evaluate barriers that still exist, preventing residents from earning a livable wage, and address", change "In fiscal year 2020 we participated in many the Childcare Coalition [. . .]" to "In fiscal year 2020 we participated in many of the Childcare Coalition [. . .]".

Commissioner Dalton moved to close the Public Hearing. Commissioner Amy Eudaley seconded. Roll call. Ten (10) in favor. Motion passed.

Commissioner Eudaley moved to approve the FY2021 PHA Annual Plan with recommended amendment. Commissioner Dalton seconded. Roll call. Ten (10) in favor. Motion passed.

Reports

a. Assisted Housing Waiting List Statistical Summary

Steger stated that the Housing Choice Voucher Waiting List did not reopen in March nor April; it was reopened on May 11, 2021. The applicants randomly selected in February have not been pulled from the Waiting List. The applicants randomly selected for May 2021 will be added to the Waiting List at positions below the applicants who are already on the Waiting List.

b. Housing Choice Voucher Participant Statistical Summary - – no report available due to early May meeting

There was no report available. The Housing Commissioners did not have any questions regarding this report.

c. Denial/Termination Meeting Results - – no report available due to early May meeting

There was no report available. The Housing Commissioners did not have any questions regarding this report.

Information Sharing

- a. The State of Iowa released information stating they will no longer participate in the federal pandemic-related unemployment benefits; as of June 12, 2021, the additional \$300 a week and additional weeks over Week 26 will cease.
- b. The next regular Housing Commission Meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 22, 2021.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Commissioner Eudaley moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Craddieth seconded. Motion passed by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 4:37 p.m.

Minutes taken by:


Tonya Englund
Recording Secretary

Respectfully Submitted:


Alexis Steger
Department Director