

HOUSING RESOURCES COMMISSION

Quarterly Meeting

Department of Administration

One Capitol Hill Providence, RI

June 9, 2006

MINUTES

The regular quarterly meeting of the RI Housing Resources Commission was called to order at 9:10a.m

Commissioners present were: Angela Lovegrove

Susan Baxter

Monica Staaf

Joseph Caffey

Roberta Aaronson

Brenda Clement

Susan Bodington

Kevin Flynn

Peter Walsh

David Hammarström

Kaveh Hajian

Jeanne Cola

Gene Nadeau

Robert McDonough

Dennis Langely

Noreen Shawcross

Barbara Fields

Valerie Voccio

Walter Combs

Richard H. Godfrey, Jr.

Kathy Bazinet

Dennis Langley

Susan Bodington

Housing Resources Commission Staff:

RI Housing Staff:

Simon Kue Amy Rainone

Darlene Price Chris Gorham

Ray Neirinckx Guests:

Doris DeLos Santos Laurie Marasco for Terence Tierney

Evelyn Quiñones

Legal Counsels:

Susan Wilson

Gerald McAvoy

**Pursuant to Chapter 46 of Title 42 General Laws of Rhode Island,
notices of this meeting
were posted with the Secretary of State and at the HRC office.**

Approval of Minutes of April 7, 2006

**Kathy Bazinet moved to approve the minutes and Susan Bodington
seconded. The minutes were amended to reflect that Angela
Lovegrove and Peter Walsh were not present at the April meeting.
Gene Nadeau was present. Minutes were approved as amended.**

Report of the Chair

Susan Baxter noted that at the last meeting there was a request to have a legal council present at the Quarterly Meetings. Gerald McAvoy, Legal Counsel at the Dept. of Administration (DOA), will serve as our Legal Counsel. Susan welcomed Susan Wilson from DOA who will represent Gerry who will arrive later in the meeting. Laurie Marasco from the Attorney General's office is representing Terence Tierney. She will not vote due to not having an official designation at this time.

Susan described the media coverage for the Journey Home Walk and Rally and how it provided major public awareness on the issues of homelessness. A number of the members of the commission participated and Susan wanted to particularly recognize Jim Ryczek from the Coalition for the Homeless and Brenda Clement and her staff for their leadership. Barbara Fields, Richard Godfrey, Terence Tierney, Kaveh Hajian and Noreen Shawcross also participated along with Susan.

Susan acknowledged promotion of the Housing Bond in the General Assembly under the leadership of Housing Works. Susan Bodington was asked to give an update on the bond. She stated that until the budget comes out nothing will be stable because of the ongoing negotiations. There was a 2 hr meeting with the chairs of the house finance committee and the senate finance committee and some sponsors. The assumption from the meeting is that they will fund NOP with a 7.5 million dollar bond and that they will approve a 50 million dollar bond to go on the ballot. They are not expected to approve the various proposed uses. It will be limited to production of rental housing and homeownership.

Susan Baxter mentioned that there were several ribbon cuttings and there was a very positive reaction to all. Also HRC will be involved with tracking reports of implementation of local housing plans and this will be a significant challenge to the HRC staff.

Resolution for Approval of Amendments to the Regulations of the Neighborhood Opportunities Program.

Susan Baxter reminded the Commission that there had been a consolidation of two distribution committees within the NOP under the chairmanship of Susan Bodington, Barbara Fields and Jeanne Cola. She has appointed David McCreadie as chair for this year, and will go rotate chairmanship of the committee annually. Susan asked Ray to go over what the recommendations and changes to the NOP

changes.

Ray went over the copies he made of the proposed changes.

Changes involved consistency in language in the three programs. The Commission discussed forward committing and preservation. The changes will be finalized through the Administrative Procedures Act process. Jeanne Cola made a motion made to send a summary of comments to the HRC. Joe Caffey seconded. If there are any substantial disagreements, these can be conveyed to the Commission. Motion passed.

Brenda Clement made a motion to approve the resolution that the NOP changes go through publication. Susan Bodington seconded. Motion passed.

Resolution Applicable to the State Lead Hazard Reduction Program

There was a discussion about regulations being more precise by including explanations that lay persons could understand. It was noted that explanations can be in materials rather than regulations. Most consumers will read flyers and fact sheets, not regulations. A major issue was the language around receivership and the need for a “catch all” priority. There were also discussions of definitions recommended by the Dept. of Health. Simon Kue will review a number of suggestions from the Commissioners in revising the regulations.

Dennis Langley moved that the regulations be published for comment. Peter Walsh seconded. Motion passed.

Approval of Memorandum of Agreement with the Department of Human Services Related to Consolidation of Shelter Funding

Noreen was asked to go over the MOA to make the Commissioners aware of it. The HRC has been very involved in decisions about the homeless system, but does not need to vote on the MOA because the agreement is between DHS and DOA because of funding.

Gerald McAvoy was introduced as the Commission's legal counsel.

Kaveh Hajian asked the commission about enforcement of the final strategic housing plan. He stated that the HRC did not act on language as had been planned. Susan explained that the Commission did not have final say over the language of the final version. While there may be areas that were changed following the Commission's approval, the State Planning Council had the power to amend the plan. The approved final plan is available at www.planning.ri.gov.

Noreen Shawcross distributed the new affordable housing design booklet. Barbara Fields offered LISC help with future editions of the booklet. Copies of the Annual Report were passed out. The 3-hour

lead training is now available on DVD. Copies are available to Commissioners.

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, September 15, 2006 in Conference Room A, second floor, One Capitol Hill, Providence.

The meeting location is accessible to handicapped persons. Those requiring special accommodations may contact Noreen Shawcross at (401) 222-5766 at least 3 days in advance of the meeting. If you would like to attend and require signing, please use TDD number: 222-1205 or # 711 (R.I. Relay), at least 3 days in advance of the meeting.