

HOUSING RESOURCES COMMISSION

Quarterly Meeting

One Capitol Hill, Conference Room A

Providence, RI

M I N U T E S of September 15, 2006

Susan Baxter, Chair, called the meeting of the RI Housing Resources Commission to order at 9:16am.

Commissioners present were: Gene Nadeau

Karen Hagan

Thomas Kravitz Bonnie Sekeres

Mike Tondra

Terence Tierney HRC Staff:

Susan Baxter Simon Kue

Noreen Shawcross Ray Neirinckx

David Hammarstrom Darlene Price

James Ryczek Doris De Los Santos

Roberta Aaronson Evelyn Quiñones

Walter Combs Rhode Island Housing Staff:

Brenda Clement Susan Bodington

Karen Hagan Chris Gorham

Mark Van Noppen Legal Counsel

Joseph Caffey Susan Wilson

Jeanne Cola Gerald Mc Avoy

Susan Bodington

Pursuant to Chapter 46 of Title 42 General Laws of Rhode Island, notice of this meeting was posted at the State House and at RI Housing Resources Commission offices.

1. Approval of Minutes of September 15, 2006

Following introductions of the Commissioners and staff, Susan Baxter welcomed Bonnie Sekeres and Thomas Kravitz. Bonnie has been involved with senior housing since 1980 and has served on many related boards and commissions. Tom works to assist the Burrillville Planning Board, has been working on production of affordable housing and did the Comprehensive Plan for his community.

Approval of the Minutes: Motion by Brenda Clement and 2nd by Joseph Caffey. Minutes approved.

2. Report of the Chair

Susan Baxter reported interviews were conducted for the HRC Coordinators position, and the recommendations had been made and sent to the State Personnel Office.

Susan announced that Simon Kue will coordinate the Office of Policy and Planning. Commissioners will be invited to give input into work plans at a staff retreat possibly in November with regard to issues and expectations.

There is a September 1, 2006 deadline for reporting on the Local Affordable Housing Plans. Susan Bodington clarified that a report is due to the Governor and General Assembly in December.

Susan asked Noreen Shawcross for updates. Welcome Arnold shelter closing continues to be in the planning stages. There have been meetings with the Governor's staff on temporary action and long term plans for permanent housing and not more shelter beds.

She also mentioned that the HRC website has been updated and how Ray was assigned to maintain the website (www.hrc.ri.gov).

Noreen also reported on how HRC was not eligible for the HUD Lead Outreach Grant due to receiving a Lead Hazard Grant. Rhode Island Housing will apply for the mitigation grant which would allow the state HRC to be eligible next year.

Mark Van Noppen asked about the Lead Outreach work and the AG settlement. Susan Bodington reported on the AG's lead commission (Dupont). Barbara Fields is the chair of the Advisory Committee and

Susan, Brenda and Roberta chair subcommittees.

Roberta Aaronson discussed how 2.5 million available could be used by the HRC for education, training and outreach. She described the components of the Technical Assistance Center. The focus will be on at-risk communities and at-risk neighborhoods. There is a concern about state agencies being eligible to apply, but the Technical Assistance Center is legally the work of the HRC. The issue of local government and code officials becoming involved was discussed. There is a commitment to do 600 units in three years with neighborhood based contractors. Brenda Clement mentioned that the RFP process for funding is to be announced soon and that central enforcement functions will be within the AG's office similar to the Nuisance Task Force. Brenda also stated that there are more resources for Legal Services to protect tenants.

Brenda Clement described the Vote Yes on 9 campaign for the \$50 million affordable housing bond (www.yeson9ri.org). She handed out educational materials and explained how 40 million would go to rental homes and 10 million to homeownership. There 50 stories for 50 Days and the kickoff program will be on September 18, 2006 at 11:00am at 182 Douglas Ave. Radio adds will begin in mid October and TV ads in late October. She is also coordinating the fieldwork to publicize Yes on 9.

3. Review of Public Comments Related to the Housing Resources

Commission Regulations.

Noreen reported that only one set of comments was received and there were no substantial changes. Motion to approve the NOP regulations: Susan Bodington, 2nd by Joseph Caffey. The passed with a reaffirmation that NOP would not pre-approve applicants.

4. Report of the Legal Counsel on Update of Regulations

Gerry McAvoy reviewed the mandate impacting the HRC that all regulations must be posted by January 2, 2007 to comply with the law requiring this every five years. Gerry noted that there will be a new protocol that must be done and he has the list of regulations affected.

5. Reports of the Offices

Roberta gave a brief update on the Lead Strategic Plan through the Office of Program Performance and Evaluation. Goals and objectives were reviewed, blanks were filled in, and completed objectives were deleted. New sections were added related to quality assurance which will lead to presentation of regulatory changes at the Dec. meeting.

Susan reported on the Office of Homelessness. Crossroad Family Shelter is up and running and very successful.

Meeting Adjourned 10:42am.