



HOUSING & REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY MINUTES

PUBLIC MEETING ROOM

MONDAY, JULY 10, 2023

6:00 PM

Meeting Items

1. Call to Order

Travis McColley was acting Chair in the absence of both Matt Speckhals, Chair, and Loni Ahlers, Vice Chair. Chair McColley called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m.

Present were Mandy Barnes, Sara Caron, Travis Kath and Travis McColley. The staff present were Ian Luker, David Wanberg and Kari Casper. Special guests were John Sherwin, Chief of Faribault Police, Scott Wopata, Executive Director of CAC, Anika Rychner, Senior Executive of CAC and Becky Ford, Director of Youth Investment of the CAC. Cathy Thielbar was also present on behalf of the Salvation Army, as well as Nalani McCutcheon who is the Senior Director of Healthy Communities Initiative.

2. Approval of the Minutes

Motion by Sara Caron, seconded by Travis Kath to Approve. Motion Passed.

3. List of Claims for Release, June 2023

4. Program Reports

A. Status of Unsheltered Hotel Voucher Program Earmarks

Status report on the update of the voucher program. Luker stated that there had been \$2,000 earmarked for this and two more vouchers had been used since the last meeting. Motion by Sara Caron, seconded by Travis Kath to receive and file as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Property Reports

A. Robinwood Manor

McColley asked about the vacancy rate and why it was so low in Robinwood, Wanberg stated that it's not the management company that is holding things up, it's the process.

He turned it over to Kari Casper to elaborate. Casper explained that they go from the waiting list and documents received go by date and time. Casper sends out five packets and gives them 14 days before a second letter goes out. In the meantime,

another group of five may be sent out depending on how many vacancies RW has and how many packets have been returned. On the whole, an applicant has 30 days to respond. Casper reported that they have filled one apt, have another moving in on August 1 and is working diligently on one other applicant who viewed the vacant apt recently. That will make three units filled with still four available. McColley asked why so many. Casper added that many go on to assisted living homes or just move out.

Chair asked for a motion. A motion was made by Travis Kath, seconded by Sara Caron to receive and file the property reports as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Public Housing

C. City Rental Unit (Scattered Sites)

6. Items for Discussion.

A. Update on Unsheltered Work: Police Chief John Sherwin and Representatives from Salvation Army and Community Action Center

Luker introduced everyone present. Chief Sherwin went over the process of how his staff decided on who and under what circumstances one would receive these vouchers. He stated that Officer Gramling had been emailing Casper with the details of who received the vouchers. Casper maintains a list of who receives the vouchers.

McColley asked what happened after the night's stay. Scott Wopata then chimed in explaining how the CAC functions in this regard. They have been exploring the "scattered sites" alternative to the homeless situation. They have also engaged in Hillcrest, which is a development in Northfield they use. Wopata then turned it over to Becky Ford to explain the many functions and resources the CAC engages in to assist in this regard. Cathy Thielbar of the Salvation Army talked a little about her vouchers.

Wopata explained that when they worked with Northfield, their HRA gave CAC \$5,000 and they deposited it in an account to be used for vouchers. When the need comes up in Northfield, they do a diligent search for funding to use through their grant processes before they tap into the HRA fund. McColley questioned the purview of HRA and wanted to make sure that there was follow-up; not to just be a band-aid. McColley asked that CAC come back and give additional feedback for the members of the board that couldn't be there tonight. Caron asked if there was a current encampment of Chief Sherwin and he confirmed that there are. Wanberg wrapped it up stating that there are a number of organizations to work on this issue.

B. Housing Presentation from Scott Wopata of Community Action Center

Wopata gave an overview of the options that CAC offers.

C. Update on Mobile Home Rehabilitation Coordinator Scope of Work in Faribault

Nalani McCutcheon, who is the Senior Director of Healthy Communities Initiative (HCI) gave an update on the progress they've been able to make this year. They did hire two people to take on the positions. They are expanding the contractor pool. Their dashboard is up and running now. In terms of funding, they do pursue grants. She discussed that they do require something from the home owner. If it's an emergency, they can make it happen.

It comes back to a "day-by-day" for funding. Wanberg stated that we just need to ensure continued contact. We will be receiving monthly updates.

D. Update on Faribo Downtown Central, LLC

Johnson did not provide anything for this report by the time of the meeting. McColley asked about the joint meeting. No point until we get more info. Inspections have yet to be done in the 1st phase.

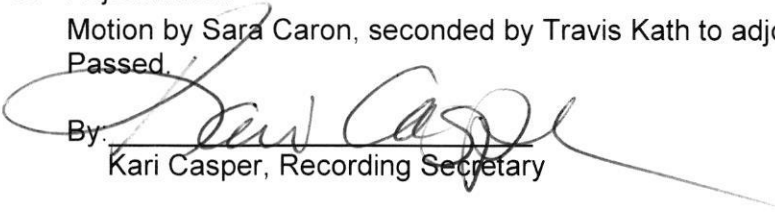
E. Topics for the August 2023 Meeting

Need to start discussing work programs and budget. Three Rivers, Jenny Larson who manages a number of units and Wanberg received permission to invite Ms. Larson to the next meeting.

7. Adjournment

Motion by Sara Caron, seconded by Travis Kath to adjourn at 8:01 p.m. Motion Passed.

By:


Kari Casper, Recording Secretary