**Boston Housing Authority RAB Meeting 12-7-17, at 125 Amory Street**

Family Public Hsg: *Members* Val Shelley, Concetta Paul, Phyllis Corbitt, Meena Carr, Aracelis Tejeda, Arlene Carr, Betty Rae Wade, Betty Carrington. *Alternates* Ron Johnson (Alt 1), Janis McQuarrie (Alt 4), Pamela Lewis-Hoyt (Alt 9), Cheryl Semnack (Alt 10): 12

Elderly/Disabled Public Hsg: *Members* Michele McNickles, Jeanne Burke Patterson, Modesta Ballester, Richard Gurney, David Turney, Marlena Nania, John Maloni. *Alternates:* Alex Rosin (Alt 1), Arthur Alexander (Alt 2): 9

Section 8: *Members* Edna Willrich, Minnie Jackson, Stephen Tracey, Lerona Diggs, Tara Ruttle. *Alternates*: Karen Stram (Alt 2), Therese Browne (Alt 4), Robin Williams (Alt 5), Georgia McEaddy (Alt 6): 9

Absences excused: Jung Wing Lee; Lennox Tillet, Eugenia Smith, Betty Cutler

Others: John Kane, Joe Bamberg, Kate Bennett, Vivian Lee, BHA; Mac McCreight, GBLS; Sherdain Carter (Washington Beech)

The meeting was chaired by Val Shelley, with assistance from Arlene Carr; Richard Gurney was Timekeeper and Therese Browne was Sergeant at Arms. Minutes of prior meeting were approved (at the end of the meeting). It was clarified that since there were 12 family public housing representatives/alternates present, only 10 could vote, and since Val (as chair) would not vote, the most recent family alternate (Cheryl from Washington Beech) would not be able to vote.

1/  **BHA Redevelopment:** Joe Bamberg and Kate Bennett were present, and Joe provided a chart summarizing what’s going on with redevelopment and provided a brief run-through for each site listed.

2/ **RAB Reading Committee; Public Hearings on PHA Plan on Dec. 11**: Mac noted that on Nov. 30th, four RAB members/alternates who had volunteered to be on the RAB Reading Committee (Concetta Paul, Meena Carr, Janis McQuarrie, and Georgia McEaddy) met and went through various of the PHA Plan documents; John and Mac were also there and notes were distributed to the RAB summarizing the discussion. Certain points were bolded because they are either items that people may want to bring up at the public hearings on December 11th or where the RAB may want follow up—such as the question of the follow-through on funding from development near the Common to help fill the gap in public safety funding. Reading Committee members also thought it would be good to convene a meeting next year of BHA and community partners on the BHA’s fiscal challenges and best strategies to address it.

Mac also noted that traditionally the RAB has used the meeting right before the public hearing to plan for the public hearing and having some people volunteer to attend each session (to provide information about the RAB, to speak in the hearing about the RAB’s role, and to feel free to raise any points/comments that they thought should be made for the record. Meena, John, Cheryl, Stephen, Karen, Concetta, Minnie, and Betty C. (John and Betty volunteered to do the evening stint at City Hall, and others will cover the 11 a.m. session at the Boston Public Library at Copley).

3/ **Request for Removal of RAB Member and Committee Report/Recommendations:** As had been approved at the last RAB meeting, an Informal Committee of RAB members/alternates (Pamela Hoyt Lewis, Georgia McEaddy, Lerona Diggs, Betty Carrington, and Robin Williams) met on Nov. 16 and took testimony from Betty Rae Wade and David Turney regarding whether David Turney should be removed from the RAB for what had occurred in July 2017 with the computer in the RAB office. Mac and John were also at the meeting and notes of the committee meeting and recommendations were given to the Board. A motion was originally made and seconded to take up the Committee’s recommendations; a subsequent motion was taken to vote first on the first three recommendations (that there was improper conduct and certain materials on a flash drive should be restored by David to John Kane, that sanctions were appropriate, but that removal was too severe a sanction and David should be given a second chance). These recommendations were adopted by a vote of 24 for, 5 opposed, and 1 abstention. The fourth recommendation (from a majority but not all Informal Committee members) was that an appropriate sanction was to remove David as chair of the Policy & Procedures Committee. The question then arose about who would be chair if this happened; Mac clarified that under the bylaws, for most Committees (except for Budget), the chair is selected by the Committee members, and can be removed by either the Committee or the Board as a whole; if David were required to step down, the Committee would choose a new chair. A motion was made and seconded to adopt the 4th recommendation; this was adopted by a vote of 14 for, 9 opposed, and 2 abstentions. A motion was made that the 5th recommendation (from a minority of the Informal Committee) be approved with some modification—i.e., that during the remaining term, David would be barred from use of the RAB office to avoid risk to the computer. It was clarified that the word “term” means for the remainder of the period until the next RAB election in 2019. This was adopted by a vote of 19 for, 2 opposed, and 7 abstentions.

4/**Committee Reports and Secretary’s Report:**

a. *Budget*: Val had prepared a report for the Budget Committee, which was distributed and approved. Concetta did an oral financial report, and noted that BHA had released its 2nd payment to the RAB; this isn’t reflected yet in the report, but there is a balance of $28,000. She noted that a number of members had either returned per diems that weren’t spent and receipts for what was spent, but that all of the information hadn’t come back for everyone from Mass. Union and NARSAH. Members/alternates were reminded of the need to provide receipts if all funds aren’t returned, or otherwise they would be in “bad standing” to run for an officer position or to attend future RAB-funded events. It was noted that a list of who’s currently not in good standing, as well as a list of who’s attended events so far, needs to be compiled, and letters go to any not in good standing; the Secretary can do this, working with the Chairs. Concetta noted that the checks and business cards are in.

b. *Secretary Report*: Betty R-W apologized that due to some computer disk problems, she hadn’t been able to bring a physical report tonight, but that it appeared that since September, there hadn’t been 3 consecutive absences without good cause (in a few cases, there were absences that were excused). Some Board members wondered, though, whether there might have been three consecutive unexcused absences if the period prior to September was reviewed; it was agreed that it would be good to have a cumulative attendance report, but they only need to be compiled every quarter.

c. *Outreach*: While there hadn’t been an Outreach Committee meeting, the Budget Committee had noted that there were funds to help the RAB do local training/workshops and this could be a good outreach opportunity. It had also been suggested that the RAB could hire a bus to help people travel to DC. There was a discussion about a RAB banner and T-shirts that could be worn/used at events (this is done by the Philadelphia HA RAB. It would be good for the Outreach Committee to meet and discuss this.

**NEW** **BUSINESS**

Karen wished to raise a topic for new business, but there was insufficient time to discuss this.

**EVALUATION**

People thought it was a good meeting, and appreciated the BHA’s presentation on redevelopment.