

**Boston Housing Authority RAB Meeting 7-11-19, at 10 Lamartine St. (Anna Mae Cole Center, Hailey Apartments, Jamaica Plain)**

Family Public Hsg: *Members* Val Shelley, Meena Carr, Phyllis Corbitt, Betty Rae Wade, Concetta Paul, Arlene Carr, Janis McQuarrie; Cheryl Semnack. *Alternates:* Nicole Beckles (Alt 1), Meriem Arachiche (Alt 2), Jeannie Archibald (Alt 2): 11

Elderly/Disabled Public Hsg: *Members* Michele McNickles, Dave Turney, Marlana Nania, Arthur Alexander, Eddie Hartfield, Jeanne Burke Patterson, Eugenia Smith, Dan Horne. *Alternate:* Anita Pleasant {Alt 1}: 9

Section 8: *Members* Jung Wing Lee, Edna Willrich, Stephen Tracey, Lennox Tillet, Karen Stram, Therese Browne, Minnie Jackson, Leron Diggs, Arlette Coleman *Alternates:* Robin Williams (Alt 1), Georgia McEaddy (Alt 2): 11

Absences excused: Ron Johnson, Modesta Ballester, Judith Frey (leave of absence).

Others: John Kane. BHA; Mac McCreight, GBLS; Judy Burnette, CLVU [check]; Artemis Johnson (Section 8).

The beginning of the meeting was chaired by Val Shelley. Arlene Carr was Timekeeper; Michelle McNickles was Sergeant at Arms. Minutes from the prior meeting were approved.

**1/Officer Elections:** Mac facilitated this part of the meeting. Val Shelley indicated that she no longer wished to run for Family Chair. Mac noted that there were more than 10 members/alternates present for both Section 8 and Family, and there might be a difficult choice between the two Family Alternates (Jeannie and Meriem), since they had joined at the same time and were equal in rank, but the Board might decide to permit all 11 to vote as an exception to the bylaws. The Board voted to let all 11 participate in those elections.

*Family Elections:* Nicole Beckels and Janis McQuarrie were nominated as Family Chair, and Nicole was selected by a vote of 7 to 2 (there were two abstentions). Janis was the sole nominee as assistant chair, and this was adopted by acclamation. For the 2<sup>nd</sup> Family position on the Budget Committee (other than the chair), Val Shelley was the sole nominee and this was adopted by acclamation.

*Section 8 Elections:* Therese Browne, Jung Wing Lee, and Karen Stram were nominees, and Therese was selected by a vote of 6 to 4 to 0 (there was one abstention). For assistant chair, Mr. Lee and Robin Williams were nominees, and Mr. Lee was selected by a vote of 7 to 4. Robin was the sole nominee as the 2<sup>nd</sup> Budget Committee representative, and this was adopted by acclamation.

*Elderly/Disabled Elections:* Michele McNickles and Eugenia Smith were nominees, and Michele was selected by a vote of 6 to 3. Eugenia Smith was the sole nominee for assistant chair, and this was adopted by acclamation. Arthur Alexander was the sole nominee as the 2<sup>nd</sup> Budget Committee representative, and this was adopted by acclamation.

*Treasurer:* Lennox Tillet and David Turney were nominated, and David was selected by a vote of 17 to 13 (there was one abstention). Arlene Carr was the sole nominee as assistant treasurer, and this was adopted by acclamation.

*Secretary:* Val Shelley was the sole nominee, and this was accepted by acclamation. Anita Pleasant was the sole nominee for assistant secretary, and this was accepted by acclamation.

Nicole chaired the rest of the meeting (with assistance from Val).

## **2/ Committee Reports:**

*Conference Coordination:* This was a discussion about who would be approved to go to the NARSAAH convention in New Orleans in September; the RAB had previously voted that six would attend (2 from Family, 2 from Elderly/Disabled, and 2 from Section 8). For Section 8, those expressing interest were Minnie Jackson, Arlette Coleman, Lennox Tillet, Therese Browne, and Karen Stram; Arlette later pulled her name. For Family, it was Phyllis Corbett, Concetta Paul, Val Shelley, Cheryl Semnack, and Nicole Beckels. For Elderly/Disabled, it was Michelle McNickles, Anita Pleasant, Dave Turney, and Eugenia Smith. It was pointed out that under the Travel Policy, preference was given to those who had not attended any prior conference, or those who hadn't been the most recent attendees (there is a member preference over an alternate, but only where all other things were equal). Given the criteria, it was decided that Nicole and Cheryl would be selected from Family (having attended no prior national events), and Concetta would be back-up; for Section 8, it would be Minnie (no prior events), and then Therese (last event 3 years ago), with Lennox as backup; for Elderly Disabled, it would be Anita (no prior events) and then Eugenia (last attended a few years ago), with Michele as backup. David said that if anyone else was planning on attending using non-RAB funding (such as funding from their task force), let him know, as he would try to book everyone together to get better arrangements.

*Outreach Ad Hoc Picnic Committee:* Robin reported on the meeting held earlier this week about arrangements both for food from a caterer and for tables/chairs for the picnic at the Boys & Girls Club on Saturday August 10<sup>th</sup> near Orchard Gardens. A head count for those planning to attend from those present was obtained (23), including how many wanted vegetarian options, and it was agreed that chairs would call the other members/alternates so a final count could be available by Monday 7/15 to order the food.

*Budget Committee:* David reported that there were two outstanding invoices for cabs to be paid (roughly \$298), and the RAB was in good shape on both the current balance (roughly \$9,900) and another installment (roughly \$10,000) due in August. He noted that two people who had been on the "no fly" list for not submitting reports, etc. had cleared things up (Betty Rae Wade and Therese Browne), and there were only two people remaining on the list at present (Eddie Hartfield and Anita Morris-Merriman). Arlene said that the Budget Committee was recommending that the RAB authorize a RAB conference to be held in the fall. Phyllis noted that there was a Mass. Union conference for 10/19, and Arlene said the recommendation was for Saturday, Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Anna Mae Cole Center. The Board approved this recommendation.

*Policy & Procedures Committee:* In Rick Gurney's absence, Mac reported that there would be a meeting of the committee on Wednesday, July 24<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. (John clarified it would be at West

Ninth Street). Val reported that the RAB members who had been active on the Resident Empowerment Coalition (REC) in the past (Meena, Arlene, Edna, and herself) had met with BHA staff and had provided a little of suggestions/recommendations, and she anticipated hearing back from BHA staff within a week or so on that. John noted that there were some recommended bylaw changes which would remove the BHA RAB liaison from a role in communicating about absences, etc., leaving this just to the members/alternates to communicate with their chairs, and he provided a version of changes that can be taken up at the committee.

**3/ Unfinished/New Business, Announcements:** John announced that BHA had not yet submitted Amendment #1 to the FY 2019 PHA Plan (related to implementing the Small Area FMRs) to HUD, but anticipated updating the RAB when this goes out. RAB members should be aware that Bill McGonagle, BHA Administrator, is retiring as of the end of the month, and they should feel free to respond to the invite (handout at meeting) for the event on Thursday, July 25<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. at the Boston Teachers Union Hall to honor his 40 years at the BHA. Georgia asked if a new Administrator had been selected; someone indicated that Bill had made a recommendation, but this was subject to the Mayor, and the Mayor has not yet announced a selection. John also publicly apologized for raising his voice to Robin Williams at the end of last month's meeting, and Robin accepted his apology.

A few people asked about Officer Training. It was noted that when new persons become Officers, participation in an Officer training event is required, but the event is also open to any other RAB members/alternates that wish to attend. John suggested, and the Board agreed that in lieu of an August RAB Board meeting, since there was the picnic on August 10<sup>th</sup> (attendance NOT mandatory, and no one would be marked absent for non-attendance), we'd just take the time slot for what would have been the August board meeting (Thursday, August 8<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. at Anna Mae Cole Center) for the officer training.

**Evaluation:** Good meeting. Need to make sure we have a working mike when we have the fan going (very hard to hear each other).