

Boston Housing Authority RAB Meeting 7-13-17, at 125 Amory Street

Family Public Housing: *Members* Val Shelley, Concetta Paul, Phyllis Corbitt, Betty Rae Wade, Meena Carr, Arlene Carr, Betty Carrington, Betty Walker. *Alternates* Janis McQuarrie (Alt 4): 9

Elderly/Disabled Public Housing: *Members* Michele McNickles, Jeanne Burke Patterson, Marlena Nania, John Maloni, Betty Cutler, Modesta Ballester, Richard Gurney, Eugenia Smith, David Turney: 9

Section 8: *Members* Edna Willrich, Lennox Tillet, Tara Ruttle, Jung Wing Lee, Judith Frey, Minnie Jackson, Lorena Diggs, Stephen Tracey, Arlette Coleman. *Alternates*: Anita Morris Merriman (Alt *), Theresa Brown (Alt *), Robin Williams (Alt *): 12

Absences excused:

Others: John Kane, Edna Rivera Carrasco, BHA; Mac McCreight, GBL; Nancy Figueroa (CPBH); Sherdain Carter (Washington Beech), Georgia McEaddy (Section 8), Jane D'Angelo (Mission Main), City Councilor Tito Jackson (and several aides and campaign chair)

The meeting was chaired by Edna Willrich; David Turney was Timekeeper and Val Shelley was Sergeant at Arms. Minutes of prior meeting were approved.

1/**Tito Jackson**: Councilor Jackson had responded to an invitation by the RAB to speak and discuss issues. He noted that Boston had things to be proud about but also serious problems need to be addressed—greatest income inequality in the country. He noted that there is a 33-year difference in life expectancy in different portions of his District. The City needs housing that is affordable to those who are living in the City—not merely housing that's called “affordable” but is renting for amounts that those currently living in the City can't afford. Redevelopment needs to be closely scrutinized to make sure that families get to come back, and are not screened out by more restrictive criteria (CORI, etc.) The City should move to a 20% affordability standard like Cambridge does. He fielded a number of questions from RAB members/alternates and welcomed any further feedback.

2/ **Attendance Report/RAB Officer Elections**: John Maloni clarified that two alternates have moved up to regular members. For the Section 8 members, Marilyn Lopez made clear that she was leaving the RAB, and Arlette Coleman moved from Alternate 1 to member. For the elderly/disabled public housing members, Merle Haynesworth Thomas had three or more unexcused absences and had been sent the letter required by the bylaws, but did not request an opportunity to question this. David Turney moved from Alternate 1 to member. (It was clarified that a few other people had been sent letters in error, and these were the only changes occurring.)

Mac took over responsibilities for chairing the Officer elections. It was clarified that since more than 10 members/alternates were present from Section 8, the 2 alternates last added to the Board (T. Brown and R. Williams) could not vote. It was also clarified that only RAB members could be elected to the regular officer positions, but alternates were free to be elected to assistant officer positions.

Nominations were taken for Section 8 chair, and both Edna Willrich & Judith Frey were nominated and spoke to why they would like the office. Edna received 8 votes and Judith 2, and

Edna was elected Section 8 chair. For the assistant chair, Therese Brown was the sole nominee (several others were nominated but declined) and was elected by acclamation.

For the family public housing chair, Val Shelley was the sole nominee (several others were nominated but declined). Arlene Carr was the sole nominee for assistant chair (one other was nominated but declined). Both were elected by acclamation.

For the elderly/disabled public housing chair, Michele McNickles was the sole nominee, and Marlene Nania was the sole nominee for assistant chair. Both were elected by acclamation.

For secretary, Betty Rae Wade was the sole nominee (one other was nominated but declined) and was elected by acclamation. There were no nominees for assistant secretary (several were nominated but declined) and that position was left vacant.

For treasurer, Concetta Paul and David Turney were nominated and spoke to why they would like the office. Concetta received 14 votes and David 11, and Concetta was elected treasurer. Judith Frey was the sole nominee for assistant chair (several others were nominated but declined) and was elected by acclamation.

Since Edna remained as an officer (re-elected Section 8 chair), Mac turned the chair back over to her.

3/ **Committee Reports**

a. Policy & Procedures—Mac reported that the Committee had taken up the request from the last RAB Board meeting about whether it was proper to both provide per diems and cover travel expenses where a local/in-state event may have had no expenses other than travel. The Committee suggested a revision to the Travel Policy (adopted earlier in the year by the RAB) so that, for such events, attendees could elect either to get per diems that would cover such expenses, or to seek reimbursements, but not do both. If a per diem was elected, and then it turned out that travel expenses were higher, later reimbursement of the difference could be sought but would not be guaranteed. There would also be flexibility for the Board to establish different per diems for different events, based on what the anticipated expenses would be (for example, whether there might be a meal cost not covered by a conference fee). The recommendations also included principles on what per diems were for. **There was discussion of this. There was some feeling that where policy and expense issued intersected—for example, Policy & Procedures normally would set the policy, but this might be influenced by what the reasonable expenses were and what was reasonable to budget for each event—it would be beneficial to convene a joint meeting of Policy & Procedures and Budget Committees to take this up. There was also some discussion about whether there were other budget related items (not related to travel or conferences), such as when to recognize the passing of a RAB member/alternate, illness, etc., and how to do this appropriately and consistently, which would benefit from such a joint meeting. No formal motion was made to convene such a meeting, but the Committee’s recommendation was tabled for the time being.**

David reported that there was a 2nd recommendation from the Policy & Procedures committee, that use of profanity or disparaging remarks, directed toward RAB members/alternates or those working with the RAB, at either RAB Board or Committee meetings, was unacceptable, and

could lead to individuals being asked to leave the meeting and listed as absent without good cause, but with reference to using the other techniques in the Ground Rules and Bylaws to try to bring situations under control. **There was discussion of this matter and the Committee's recommendation was tabled for the time being.**

b. Budget: For those going to the NARSAH conference, cab vouchers to and from Logan will be provided. There was some discussion with NARSAH about the rate. A question arose about whether, for those who have already attended past NARSAH conferences and already gotten certification, certification fees can be waived; this will be discussed with NARSAH. [There may have been other discussions here, but didn't get details.]

The meeting adjourned without completion of a number of items on unfinished/new business or an evaluation.