

ROCHESTER HOUSING AUTHORITY
July 28, 2021
**675 WEST MAIN STREET
ROCHESTER, NEW YORK 14611**



MEMBERS PRESENT

Tynise Edwards, Chairperson
Florine Cummings, Resident Commissioner
Rosalie Remarais, Commissioner
Duwaine Bascoe, Commissioner
Henry Rubin, Commissioner

STAFF PRESENT

Melissa Berrien
Shawn Burr
Sinclair Carrington
Diana Colon
Pierre Dorancy
Joyce Kinsey
Shawanna Lawrence
Mark Plantholt
Mariam Rodriguez-
Machuca
Shelby Simpson
Evhen Tupis

OTHERS PRESENT

H. Todd Bullard, RHA Legal Counsel
Allyssa Birth, Tipping Point Communications
Jamie Frumusa, Tipping Point Communications

Commissioner Tynise Edwards called the July Rochester Housing Authority (RHA) Regular Board Meeting to order at 12:05 pm. It was noted for the record that notice of this meeting was posted as required by law and that there was a quorum present.

1. Open Forum – Public Comments

There were no Public Comments.

2. Approval of Minutes: June 2021 Regular Board Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Rubin moved, and Commissioner Cummings seconded the motion to approve the June 2021 Regular Board Meeting minutes. Commissioner Cummings, Commissioner Remarais, Commissioner Bascoe, Commissioner Rubin, and Commissioner Edwards voted yes. The motion passed five to zero

3. **Director's Report and Board Approval Requests**

a. Deputy Executive Director, Shawn Burr, presented his Director's report as follows:

Mr. Burr would like to

CONTINUE to

recognize Staff across the Authority who continue to go above and beyond to ensure our quality services are performed and resident and participant needs are taken care of especially during the pandemic and now with us reopening! They are doing a remarkable job!

Mr. Burr shared that we are not out of the woods yet with COVID all need to remain diligent in maintaining each other's safety. RHA continues to monitor and adhere to new regulations, recommendations and Executive Orders as we receive them. Mark and staff have implemented the new sanitizing system and setting up trainings at our other sites. Visitor restrictions have been relaxed, masks are required for all staff and visitors who have not been vaccinated. Temperature kiosks for staff and visitors remain in place with handheld thermometers as back-ups. The Executive Team monitors current conditions daily and meets weekly to discuss our processes.

Mr. Burr shared that we were awarded 117 Emergency Housing Vouchers by HUD as a result of the RESCUE Plan. We continue to work with the Continuum of Care and other community partners to strategize on the requirements associated with the program. We went "Live" on 7/19 with a posting on our website that includes information and a link to apply. Details and updates will continue to be presented at the Section 8 Committee meeting.

Mr. Burr shared that our application for the HUD Choice Mobility Demonstration was approved as one of nine in the country and our Team is moving forward with webinars and program meetings. We are in the data/information gathering phase currently. We will continue to update at the Section 8 Committee meeting.

Mr. Burr shared that Trillium's COVID testing/Primary Care services for our residents continues with July's schedule moving along. We will be scheduling a "lessoned learned" meeting with Trillium in the near future to discuss strategies and opportunities moving forward.

Mr. Burr reported staff continue to be involved in several community projects and report on them in their Board reports. RMAPI Housing Committee which will now be a Housing Working Group which will focus on our community's full housing system, City FEC Program Initiative, Connected Communities Housing Committee, Private Sector Rental Market Study, and Benefits Project are a few that are in the works. I really appreciate their efforts in representing RHA on critical projects in our community and their extra efforts are commendable.

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Mr. Burr reported that as you recall, RHA participated in the 21-Day Racial Equity Shawanna is working with Dr. Archie from the City to provide staff and Board training. Dates are being scheduled.

Mr. Burr reported that he is participating on the West Main Steering Committee as planning takes place on the redevelopment of the "Bull's Head" neighborhood. We will be creating an actionable vision for West Main St that reflects a revived multimodal, economic, and cultural corridor. This study will create a roadmap for making investments and changes to the neighborhood, street, and streetscape design. I'm also part of the North Inner Loop Planning project.

Mr. Burr reported on an update from NYSPHADA Update: We are gearing up for a Fall conference for late September, early October. The Legislative Committee continues to work hard on advocating at the State level for funding for PHA's, especially upstate. Some of us met with NYS HCR Commissioner, Ruth Visnauskas and her team on the lack of 9% LIHTC awards to PHA's (none). And how the \$125 million in the NYS budget allocated for upstate PHA's was going to be allocated. It was a good meeting and they listened to us and I feel they "heard" what we were saying. They are in the process of determining how the \$125 Million will be allocated. Our Advocacy efforts to seek a set aside for PHAs of LIHTC, came full circle on 6/30/21 with the release of the RFP by HCR that included the set aside.

Mr. Burr share that NAHRO Provides In-Depth Analysis of Proposed FY22 HUD Budget Major increases to vouchers and the Public Housing Capital Fund could be coming next fiscal year, if Congress adopts proposed legislation that was approved by the full House Appropriations Committee on July 16.

b. Board Action Requests

- i. Bulk Bid Property Assessment Services Renewal– Authorized the Deputy Executive Director to award a contract renewal to All Environmental Inc. for the amount of \$50,000 (2 of 4) – Capital Projects

Commissioner Cummings moved, and Commissioner Rubin seconded the motion to approve this request., Commissioner Edwards, Commissioner Bascoe, Commissioner Rubin, Commissioner Remarais, and Commissioner Cummings voted yes. The motion passed five to zero.