

APPROVED
MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING
GREAT BARRINGTON HOUSING AUTHORITY BOARD MEETING

April 29, 2020 10:30 a.m.

Telephone remote participation per Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Provisions of the Open Meeting Law

I CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Mercer called the meeting to order at 10:32 a.m. In attendance by telephone, board of commissioners: Mercer, Sinico, Mooney, Becker, and Ryan
Executive Director Tina Danzy, Assistant to the Executive Director Madonna Meagher

Public: Marlene Koloski LTO President, Joanne Iarocci tenant

II NEW BUSINESS:

Creative Place-making design principles grant for GBHA properties: Flag Rock Village, Dewey Court, Brookside Manor.

Chairman Mercer asked Ms. Meagher to give some background on the grant initiative "Creative Place-making". The deadline for submission of April 15th was pushed back until April 29, 2020. An approval from the board with a vote to proceed was part of the grant requirements.

Ms. Meagher spoke briefly about the DHCD grant worth up to \$500,000 per housing authority. A minimum of 20 units @ \$5,000 per unit was needed to meet the criteria to be eligible to apply for the grant. The requirements sought an LHA member to head up the project, involvement from the Local Tenants Organization, committees made up of tenants and resident input. Ms. Meagher explained that to have the largest impact for grant submission the family units both at Flag Rock Village and Dewey Court needed to be combined, otherwise families couldn't be part of the application funding. Ms. Meagher met with house doctor architect, Steve McAlisteer and received budget information and Ms. Meagher received grant input from members of the Worcester housing authority. Executive Director Danzy thanked Ms. Meagher and Ms. Koloski for their tireless work to complete the application along with the additional exhibits needed by DHCD. LTO President Koloski posted meeting notices at all the property community rooms. Before the COVID-19 shut down the office, Ms. Koloski met with tenants and asked them to form committees. Families at each property wanted to be part of the process as did senior residents. Many initial meetings were held, and when self isolation orders were enforced, connections to the resident community were through phone conversations. Chairman Mercer thanked Ms. Meagher and Ms. Koloski for their hard work.

Board discussion ensued with Mooney echoing Sinico that they were never contacted and never saw the posted notices. Mooney continued with a list of her concerns about the applications as presented for approval including the wording townhouse for family units that might be better described as duplex units. Mooney took issue with the narrative that mentioned that the family units had no common place to congregate. She mentioned that she had witnessed families out on their lawns socializing. Another concern with the narrative was the absence of noting that there is an outdoor spot for seniors at Flag Rock Village. Ms. Koloski responded to Mooney's remark stating that the seating area where some tenants gather is the smoking area. Regarding the section of the application LHA Management Capacity, Ms. Mooney challenged the PMR and the AUP responses additionally adding that the board had had training with Attorney Liebel. Ms. Mooney questioned why the board hadn't known about this grant initiative before this meeting, Executive Director Danzy stated that she did inform the board when meetings were held in person. The reason this special meeting was needed was due to the deadline looming [today 4/29/20] with

completion by 5 p.m. Executive Director Danzy reminded everyone, this vote is just to approve submitting the grant applications, there is no guarantee our LHA would even be chosen. Despite her concerns about the language included in the grant applications, Ms. Mooney liked the idea of a play space for children and suggested that the capital budget be used to provide play equipment including a sandbox. She also suggested placing the topic on the next meeting agenda.

Board Member Becker noted the good work with this comprehensive application and thanked Ms Meagher. Ms. Becker asked for clarification on the Brookside property and the access the seniors have to the adjacent Great Barrington Senior Center. Chairman Mercer answered that the Brookside Property has a driveway to the back of the senior center and there are no problems for easy access for Brookside tenants.

Chairman Mercer made a motion to approve sending all three “Creative Place-making” applications to DHCD by the end of the day 4/29/20. Seconded by Ryan. Roll Call Vote: Sinico aye, Mercer aye, Ryan aye, Becker aye, Mooney abstain. Motion approved 4-1.

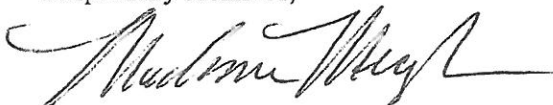
III BOARD SPEAK:
None

IV CITIZEN SPEAK:
Ms. Koloski hoped a grant would come from the State. Joanne Iarocci, a tenant at Flag Rock, responded to Ms. Mooney’s suggestion that playgrounds for children come out of the capital budget. Ms. Iarocci explained to Ms. Mooney that the capital budget is completely separate from this grant proposal.

ADJOURNMENT: 10:52 a.m. Chairman Mercer made a motion to adjourn was seconded by Ryan. Vote: Roll call vote: Mercer aye, Ryan aye, Sinico aye, Mooney aye, Becker aye. Unanimous.

NEXT MEETING: May 5, 2020 @ 3:30 p.m. Flag Rock Community Room
Documents reviewed: Agenda, Creative Place-Making Initiative applications for grants: Flag Rock, Dewey and Brookside

Respectfully submitted,



Madonna Meagher

Pursuant to MA General Laws Chapter 30A, Section 20 (e) (f), meetings of the Great Barrington Housing Authority are regularly recorded. Any member of the public wishing to speak at the meeting must receive permission of the Chair. Listed agenda items are those reasonably anticipated by the chair which may be discussed at the meeting. Not all items listed may in fact be discussed and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law.