

**ACCESSIBLE
HOUSING
ADVISORY BOARD**

Jean Bender
Kari Benz
Joan Franken
Paul Kostboth
Cynthia Mickelson
Jeff Nelson
Nancy Reynza
Marshall Selberg
Jim Schmidt
Aspen Thorstenson

STAFF

Jeff Eckhoff
Kevin Smith
Amos Abu

Minutes of Accessible Housing Advisory Board Meeting Wednesday, May 4, 2022, 7:30 a.m.

Pursuant to the due call and notice thereof, a regular meeting of the Accessible Housing Advisory Board was duly held at the Sioux Falls Development Foundation Briefing Center – 200 North Phillips Avenue, Suite 101, on Wednesday, April 6, 2022.

1. Call to Order and Quorum Determination.

Vice-Chairman Paul Kostboth called the roll to determine a quorum. The chairman was absent at this morning's meeting.

A. present:

Jean Bender
Joan Franken
Kari Benz – Secretary
Aspen Thorstenson
Marshall Selberg
Cynthia Mickelson – joined the meeting late
Paul Kostboth – Vice-Chair

B. Absent:

Jim Schmidt
Nancy Reynzo
Jeff Nelson

C. Others Present:

Jeff Eckhoff (City of Sioux Falls)
Kevin Smith (City of Sioux Falls)
Amos Abu (City of Sioux Falls)
Travis, Heiter (City of Sioux Falls)
Mike Gray, (Development Foundation)
Michelle Erpenbach (Sioux Falls THRIVE)

2. Approval of Minutes of April 6, 2022

Motion: There was no approval of the previous minutes because the board could not form a quorum.

3. Approval of Regular Agenda

Motion moved by Jim Schmidt to approve agenda seconded.

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4. Public Input on Non-Agenda Item

There was no public input.

5. Updates on Restructuring of the Neighborhood Revitalization Division

Jeff Eckhoff provides an update to the board on a department reorganization, particularly the housing division, to adequately respond to the increasing demands for housing interventions in our City. He announced that effective May 2, he is creating a Housing Development Manager position to focus on housing and creating new and recycled housing units, including leading the housing team. He has accordingly reassigned some staff to the Neighborhood Revitalization to strengthen Neighborhood Revitalization and develop comprehensive approaches to code compliance and property maintenance. Code enforcement will also focus on formalizing collaboration with other city departments; code compliance will become more efficient and lead to more proactive property maintenance where we can appropriately deploy resources early on and identify potential code cases before they get to violation status. Jeff mentioned that the current staff turnover in the housing has further burdened the division and put a strain on

Discussions:

Jean Bender commented that there had been too many changes in the department's housing division since last year and wondered what necessitated the changes. She further stated that the housing division seems to be at a standstill at this moment. Jean also mentioned that the Housing Clinic which the Minnehaha County helps fund has not been proactively implementation program as it was intended. She called for a further discussion at the next AHAB meeting in June.

Jeff, in his response, referenced the staff turnover as one of the primary causes of the seemingly slow pace of activity and mentioned that the implementation approach of the Housing Clinic was slightly modified to respond to the needs of community partners and stakeholders.

6. Safety and Home Grant Repair Program

Kevin Smith – Assistant Director of Planning and Development Services, gave a brief update to the board on Safety and Home Grant Repair Program, also known as the “Repair Affair Program,” which provides a \$5,000 grant for Sidewalk repairs for eligible homeowners in designated neighborhoods in the

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City. He stated that the response has been overwhelming, and staff has been inundated with calls and applications since the announcement. Kevin noted that the program is an inter-department collaborative effort between Engineering and Housing.

Discussion:

Jean Bender asked for a clarification of what eligible repair projects applicants could utilize for this grant could be used. Kevin indicated that it's not for sidewalks but actual home repairs up to \$5000.

7. Updates on Public Safety Down Payment Assistance Program

Travis Heiter – Housing Program Specialist, City of Sioux Falls, gave an implementation status update on the Public Safety Down Payment Assistance Program. He briefly described the eligibility criteria and process of vetting applicants for the \$25,000 assistance to public safety. Travis indicated noted the overwhelming response of interest and applications submitted are at various stages of processing with one closing on a house.

Discussion:

Motion: There was no motion: All comments and questions were answered.

8. Updates on MacArthur Foundation Grant Proposal Updates

Kari Benz gave an update on the next stage of the Equitable Housing Demonstration Project – EHDP grant for the justice Involved. Kari informed the board about the draft community engagement plan by the coordinating committee as part of the implementation of the 1st phase of the EHDP. The community engagement plan will be reviewed by the Urban Institute – Technical Assistance team to ensure that it reflects the core objectives of the Justice and Safety Initiative of the MacArthur Foundation's grant.

She reiterated that the grant award is still under an embargo and will be announced in the coming days. Kari further stated that the grant agreement is being reviewed by the Minnehaha County and will be sent to the County Commission for approval.

Discussion:

Jean Bender enquired who review the community engagement plan, she mentioned that as a member of the Steering Committee, she has no

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information and has yet to receive and review the document. She noted that there is a gap in communication between the Coordinating Commission and Steering Committee. Amos Abu explained the various roles of the committees and clarified that the coordinating Committee drafted the community engagement plan at very short notice and made it available to members of the Steering Committee to review and comment on. He indicated that the Coordinating Committee is streamlining communication and Maximizing Excellence will now schedule and send out meeting invites.

8. Adjournment

The Vice-Chair, Paul Kostboth moved the motion to adjourn to the next AHAB meeting. He mentioned that due to the lack of quorum, the Board could not approve the previous minutes and the agenda. The Board will have to

The meeting adjourned at 9:48 a.m.

Kari Benz, Secretary