

City/County Commission on Supportive Housing
Prairie Apartments Housing Development
January 5, 2010

Attending: Rochell B. Williams, Anne McDevitt, Paula N. John, Tony Perez, Bob Berlan, Jim Mathy, Kenyatta Yamel, Martha Brown, Jim Marks, Jessica Shriver

Prior to the meeting, the group toured Prairie Apartments. Prairie Apartments is a 24-unit supportive apartment building developed by Heartland Alliance, in partnership with The Guest House.

Call to order: Kenyatta Yamel called the meeting to order at 10:20 am. Mr. Yamel asked about adding additional consumer members to the board. Martha Brown commented that the number of members is fixed, but more consumer involvement is something for the commission to consider and should look for ways to increase consumer involved beyond the two commission members.

Review and approval of the October 15, 2009 meeting minutes. Martha Brown noted the Point In Time Summary. Tony Perez made the motion for approval and Bob Berlan seconded. All in favor.

Supportive housing project update: Martha Brown gave the following updates on Supportive Housing Projects:

Johnston Center Residences – 1230 W. Grant St.

- 91 units in a renovated building (former Johnston Community Health Clinic) and a new addition.
- Support services to be provided by Hope House.
- Ground broken May 28, 2009.
- Mexican Fiesta relocating to make room for an addition to the clinic.

Washington Park Apartments – 39th/Lisbon

- 24 units in a new building, including 10 units for families in which a parent is struggling with mental illness. County Behavioral Health Division is providing financial resources for these 10 units. Support services provided by United Methodist Children's Services.
- Residents are currently moving into the building, which was formally opened in December 2009.
- Kitchens furnished by the company that publishes Taste of Home magazines and cookbooks.

Empowerment Village – National (1525 W. National Avenue) and Empowerment Village – Lincoln (6th and Lincoln)

- 34 units in renovated building with addition (W. National Ave.) plus office and program space for Our Space, Inc.
- 30 units new construction at 6th and Lincoln
- Zoning issues resolved on 6th and Lincoln site
- Construction at EV-Lincoln will begin after Our Space moves into EV-National.
- Both projects are joint ventures between Our Space and Cardinal Capital

Veterans Manor (35th/Wisconsin Avenue)

- 52 units in new building.
- Stimulus funds approved for units
- Project is being sponsored by the Center for Veterans Issues, with assistance from Cardinal Capital.

Autumn West

- Dept. of City Development continues to work with Community Advocates to identify a new site.

2500 W. Fond du Lac

- Still requires additional funding
- Samaritan Bonus Project for Continuum of Care
- Project is being developed by Heartland Alliance, in partnership with St. Ben's meal program.

Discussion: Martha Brown provided background about the rezoning that was required for the EV-Lincoln project. There was some neighborhood opposition, although the rezoning was eventually approved. County Supervisor Peggy West and Alderman Jim Witkowiak hosted a community meeting on the project.

Martha Brown also reported that LISC-Milwaukee is studying local expenditure of discretionary funds for affordable housing. Such funds include federal HOME funds and the City and County Housing Trust Funds. The study group is exploring whether all such funds should be directed to supportive housing projects.

Kenyatta Yamel asked if anyone is focusing on employment with housing. Jim Mathy commented that the Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness is focusing on the issue.

Jim Mathy commented on \$1.8 million of Milwaukee County Consortium funds will go to purchase a foreclosed property in Cudahy that will be supportive housing. Jim also commented about an 811 project for a 42- unit condo project in Glendale.

Jim and Martha discussed a new interpretation by the City of Milwaukee Department of Neighborhood Services of transitional housing. An inter-staff group at the City is currently working on resolving the zoning ordinance for various types of supportive housing, including small-scale transitional living facilities. This work is part of a larger plan for siting supportive housing in Milwaukee.

Action Item: Approve bylaws for the Commission: The draft bylaws were presented to the Commission. In discussion, the group agreed that the bylaws should allow subcommittees and Ad Hoc committees to include members who are not members of the Commission.

Jim Marks moved approval of the bylaws with this change. Bob Berlan seconded the motion. Motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Action Item: Elect new Commission chair and vice chair: Because chairman Kenyatta Yamel and vice chairman Jim Tarantino have reached the end of their terms in office, chair Yamel entertained nominations for new officers. Jim Marks nominated Jim Tarantino as chair, Bob Berlan seconded. Tarantino was elected by unanimous vote.

Chair Yamel entertained nominations for vice-chair. Jim Marks nominated Suzanne Breier, Rochell Williams seconded. Breier was elected by unanimous vote.

Jim Tarantino and Suzanne Breier will begin their terms at the April 2010 meeting.

Action Item: Review and approve text for 2009 Commission annual report: Martha Brown presented a draft of the Commission's 2009 annual report. The group asked that additional information be added to reflect the commission's advocacy work in 2009. Bob Berlan moved approval of the report text, with that change. Jim Marks seconded. All voted in favor of the motion.

Next meeting date: The next commission meeting will be held at 10 am Tuesday, April 27. Martha will try and reserve a room at Washington Park apartments.

Acknowledgement of Kenyatta Yamel: The commission thanked Kenyatta for his work as the founding chair of the Commission on Supportive Housing.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 am.

Meeting minutes taken by Jessica Shriver.