



**HOUSING AUTHORITY
Minutes – June 7, 2023
In person at Planning Office
and via Zoom**

Call to Order: Chair Schulz called the meeting of the Housing Authority of Rock County to order at 9:02 AM on Wednesday, June 7, 2023.

Members present in person: Chair Supervisor Kathy Schulz and Michelle Ponkauskas.

Members present via ZOOM: Billy Bob Grahn

Members Excused: None

Rock County Staff present: Ilana Eisenberg (Office Coordinator) and Andrew Baker (Planning Director)

Others Present via ZOOM: Sheila Williams

Adopt Agenda: Mr. Grahn made a motion to approve. Ms. Ponkauskas seconded the motion. ADOPTED

Approval of Minutes from Meeting Held May 3, 2023: Mr. Grahn made a motion to approve. Ms. Ponkauskas seconded the motion. ADOPTED

Citizen Participation, Communications and Announcements: None

Update on Housing Authority Member Status:

Director Baker informed that the two vacancies for the Housing Authority Committee have been applied for by the previously appointed Supervisor Bill Wilson and Katie Udell, as the citizen representative. Ms. Udell is active in the community and most recently organized a presentation on how the ARPA fund are being used locally for housing related concerns. There is to be a County Board confirmation tomorrow night, on June 8, 2023.

Follow Up Discussion on Developing a County-Wide Housing Strategy:

Feedback from UW Staff Related to Request for Assistance

Director Baker informed that at this time there is no formal update. Professor Steve Deller from UW Extension has tentatively agreed to help out with a community based effort similar to that he presented at the housing symposium. He is currently assisting Waukesha County in their efforts to create a housing profile, that could potentially be used as a guiding example. Many of the counties have an Educator in the location extension department. Rock County does not. This person would take on the role of compiling and researching these data figures. The discussion of getting a group of people to work together on recuperating data was discussed. It would take time to organize and the cost of hiring someone to assist was a possibility. There may also need to be an Ad Hoc Committee established. There was also discussion about health-related issues that residents of the county may be facing. This could be due to disparities in finding or locating doctors, pharmacies, or even food due to lack of transportation or distances from these services.

General Update from Staff Regarding Materials/Sources Compiled

Director Baker has begun to organize the sources and articles to use for future planning. There is much interest in getting support from the County Board, and these resources will provide evidence on how to “tackle” any concerns they may have. Garnishing an outside partner, such as the UW, will prove validating.

Discussion of funds being available throughout the county that could applied for by residents. The availability of ARPA funds could be an option, although all the funds are “spoken for” presently. There is the possibility of funds being re-allocated but that usually does not occur for programs that are involved with new construction.

Status of Outreach Efforts:

Heather Boggs (WPHD) has tracked that most applicants have reported to see publicity on either Facebook or Twitter. Other forms of publications were found as being unsuccessful or overlooked. Another option would be getting human services involved regarding health concerns and other safety issues (children and elderly). Contractors could be finding difficulties putting in bids depending on the condition of the residence. There are specifications that could be added to improve the chances of loan approval.

Suggestions for Future Meeting Topics:

The next meeting is to be, tentatively, on July 12, 2023, at 10 am. Discussion of “tiny houses” was brought up and the possibility of a senior community taking advantage of these properties.

Adjournment:

Mr. Grahn made the motion to adjourn at 9:59 am. Ms. Ponkauskas seconded the motion. ADOPTED

Next meeting: 07/12/2023 at 10:00AM

Respectfully submitted,
Ilana Eisenberg, Office Coordinator