



**HOUSING AUTHORITY
Minutes – March 5, 2025
Planning Department Conference Room
2nd Floor Rock County Courthouse
51 S Main St, Janesville, WI 53545
And Via ZOOM**

Call to Order: Chair Schulz called the meeting of the Housing Authority of Rock County to order at 9:04 AM on Wednesday, March 5, 2025.

Members present in person: Chair Supervisor Kathy Schulz, Supervisor Bill Wilson, and Badri Balur

Members present via ZOOM: Katie Udell and BillyBob Grahm

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

Rock County Staff present via ZOOM: Jane Golberg (Public Health Strategist)

Adopt Agenda: Supervisor Wilson made a motion to approve. Mr. Balur seconded the motion. ADOPTED

Approval of Minutes from Meeting Held February 5, 2025: Ms. Udell made a motion to approve. Mr. Balur seconded the motion. ADOPTED

Citizen Participation, Communications and Announcements:

Director Baker introduced reached out to Alexis Camacho-Stedman (Legal Action of Wisconsin) and received information regarding what services they were still offering in Rock County. Chair Schultz went to the location in person to report back on the updates on when she is present on Wednesday. She was told that there is no longer the guarantee that there will be someone from Legal Action available to represent residents of Rock County in court unless they meet a particular criterial standard or consist of problems. There is no set time frame on how long this will last. Ms. Camacho-Stedman resides in the City of Janesville therefore she is able to spend some of her time here because she deeply cares about the community.

Discussion Regarding Development of an Addendum for the Analysis of Impediment to Fair Housing Report Recently Completed:

Updated Final Draft

Director Baker began the discussion with putting the Addendum for the Analysis of Impediment to Fair Housing Report into the final format. The time frames are extended to reflect the goals for the next 5 years. Ms. Udell mentioned the appreciation and time it took to clean up the document by Director Baker after receiving the follow-up information or changes by members of the Housing Authority Committee. Under Goal 2, there was a change requested to be made on clarification of specific example to be added onto the health website. Mr. Balur mentioned the possible request of creating a map that would show the subsidized housing areas outlining the specific properties that are or could become available. Much discussion went on how this could potentially be a privacy violation. Supervisor Wilson discussed, instead, the possibility of having a map created showing dots on the cities and/or townships with how many subsidized units are available within that region rather than providing specific locations or buildings.

Chair Schulz made mention of having visited the 4th and 5th Wards and observing how larger homes have been used to create units to house multiple families rather than being designated as single-family homes. This could be a sales pitch to the zoning authority to aid in creating more affordable housing throughout the county.

There was discussion on how the Housing Authority Committee could reach out to other groups within the County and provide input and suggestions and providing education about resident needs when it came to housing. Supervisor Wilson discussed the importance of address and putting more focus on the rural areas. Housing in these areas can be deterred due to cost and infrastructure difficulties.

Ms. Udell began discussion about the book, *The Color of Law: A Forgotten History of How Our Government Segregated American* written by Richard Rothstein. It goes into detail about the history of public housing. It should be up to the government to help protect the most vulnerable people in the country. Ms. Udell also made mention how she has been conducting research on plats throughout the county to identify racial discrimination. She discovered that there are GIS mapping projects conducted by both Dane and Milwaukee counties detecting racial restrictions and covenants in prior legal documentation, specifically outlining who may own or reside on pieces of land. These efforts have been conducted during Ms. Udell's free time due to needing to access the program to look up warranty deeds and plats with a specific program by coming to the Rock County Courthouse. Sandra Disrud (Register of Deeds) has been of great assistance when providing a guide of where and how to look and uncover the information being sought out. Director Baker mentioned about checking with the County Board to see if allowance for Ms. Udell could be authorized to access the web-based program to conduct research. There was mention about the possibility of receiving support by the Planning Department employees in reference to the GIS mapping research portion. There was additionally mention of a traveling exhibit presentation on this matter throughout Dane County.

Suggestions for Future Meeting Topics:

Discussion of suggestions for future meeting topics were mentioned during the present meeting. Chair Schulz, Supervisor Wilson, and Director Baker were set to meet with the Corporation Council directly after the Housing Authority meeting. The Committee will be provided an update as to what was discussed and accomplished during this meeting. There was additionally a request for Ms. Udell to provide updates in reference to the research progress with the mapping discrimination throughout Rock

County either at the next meeting or in two meetings time, depending on the pending advancement made.

Adjournment:

Mr. Grahn made the motion to adjourn at 10:03 AM. Supervisor Wilson seconded the motion.
ADOPTED

Next meeting: 04/02/2025 at 9:00AM

Respectfully submitted,
Ilana Eisenberg, Office Coordinator