

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Housing Opportunity Fund Advisory Board for the Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh. City of Pittsburgh YouTube channel.

June 2, 2022

Members Present: Lena Andrews, Jamil Bey, Joanna Deming, Jerome Jackson, Knowledge Build-Hudson, Mark Masterson, Paul Spradley, Sonya Tilghman, Derrick Tillman, Adrienne Walnoha, Kellie Ware (Chair), and Megan Winters

Staff Present: Jahd Burns, Breanna Benjamin, Rae Ann Driscoll, Donna Freeman, Victoria Jackson, Derek Kendall-Morris, Bailey Knapp, Lisa Korade, Evan Miller, Brett Morgan, Niklas Persson, Melinda Ward, Jennifer Wilhelm

Others Present: Casandra Armour, Julie Collins, Megan Confer-Hammond, David Finer, Alexander Fisher, Max Glikman, Heather Gray, Matt Madia, Linda Metropulos, Ed Nusser, Iris Smith, Dan Sullivan

#### **A. Roll Call**

Kellie Ware called the meeting to order. A quorum was present.

#### **B. Review and Acceptance of Minutes from the April 7, 2022 Meeting**

Adrienne Walnoha motioned to approve the minutes of the April 7, 2022 board meeting as written and previously distributed. Derrick Tillman seconded. The motion carried.

#### **C. Public Comment**

#### **D. Community Discussions**

Megan Confer-Hammond executive Director of the Fair Housing Partnership provided a fair housing presentation. Ms. Confer-Hammond provided fair housing related updates on the following topics:

- Current litigation attempting to block the City of Pittsburgh's recent Inclusionary Zoning Ordinance in federal court
- Appraisal complaints regarding racial bias filed recently by the Fair Housing Partnership
- Recent HUD announcement of rulemaking process to update regulations around how to treat tenants and applicants with criminal histories.

#### **E. Homeowner Assistance Program and Small Landlord Fund Update**

Derek Kendall-Morris presented an update on the Homeowner Assistance Program (HAP) and the Small Landlord Fund (SLF). Both programs will re-open for applications on June 13<sup>th</sup>. It was requested that Advisory Board members share this information with their contacts and let URA staff know of any upcoming events within the community where the URA could present information about these programs.

#### **F. URA Administrative Updates**

URA staff provided some administrative updates relevant to the Housing Opportunity Fund. It was announced that Evan Miller is now the Acting Director of the URA's Residential & Consumer Lending Department. Jahd Burns was introduced as the new Housing Administration and Community Outreach Coordinator for the Residential & Consumer Lending Department. Jahd Burns shared that he is working to develop a Community Outreach Plan for the Housing Opportunity Fund and the URA's Residential & Consumer Lending Department for which he will be seeking feedback from the board in the future. Jahd Burns also provided an update on the Housing Opportunity Fund 2021 Annual Report and asked Advisory Board members to submit any success stories or quotes they would like to have included in the report as soon as possible. URA Staff also presented the 2022 Are Median Income Chart based on the latest data from HUD.

### **G. Advisory Board Administrative Items**

Advisory Board Chair Kellie Ware facilitated a discussion about the structure of the HOF Advisory Board Meetings. Shifting Advisory Board meetings to a hybrid model to allow for in-person participation was discussed as well as the potential for alternating meeting times between morning and afternoon or evening from month to month. Exploring other options for providing public comment was also considered in the hopes of boosting the amount of public comment the HOF advisory Board receives. Adjusting the timeline in regard to when the HOF Advisory Board agenda is distributed to the board members and the public was also discussed.

The upcoming RFP for the HOF Annual Allocation Plan was discussed along with the desire to have HOF Advisory Board Members participate with URA staff in community feedback sessions during the Annual Allocation process.

### **H. Program Expenditures and Updates**

Derek Kendall-Morris presented a status update on the Homeowner Assistance Program including how many residents are currently waiting to be served, how many new applications will be accepted in 2022 and the funding allocations that would be necessary to potentially keep the program open year-round. The current capacity limitations within the program in relation to available contractors, etc. was also discussed.

Andrea Bustos from the Department of Human Services presented on the current status of the Housing Stabilization program since the administration of the program transitioned to DHS in 2021.

Derek Kendall- Morris provided an update on the expenditures within the Legal Assistance Program to date and previewed a more in-depth update about the Legal Assistance Program at the July Advisory Board Meeting.

### **I. Announcements**

The next Housing Opportunity Fund Advisory Board Meeting will be held on Thursday July 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at 9:00AM

### **J. Adjournment**

Mark Masterson moved to adjourn, Derrick Tillman seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned.