

REGIONAL HOUSING COUNCIL

Wednesday April 13th, 2022 Meeting Minutes

ATTENDEES:

Lacey: Kelly Adams, Rick Walk

Tumwater: Michael Althaus, Joan Cathey, Brad Medrud

Olympia: Jim Cooper, Dani Madrone, Keith Stahley, Darian Lightfoot

Thurston County: Carolina Mejia, Ramiro Chavez, Keylee Marineau, Tom Webster, Jacinda Steltjes, Meghan Porter

South County: Brian Hess

Public: None

Meeting began at 4:00 pm.

Agenda Item 1: Agenda approved

Agenda Item 2: Minutes from March 23rd, motion and second, approved

Agenda Item 3: 2022 RFP Process and Calendar

Tom gave an update, with a calendar of upcoming events and dates. Applications were due April 1, for Cold and Hazardous weather, CHG, and Capital projects. Next steps include the RHC funding workgroup meeting on April 18th to review reports for current contracts that are up for renewal for a second year. Review Team will meet at the end of April to finalize RFP scores. Funding Workgroup will meet May 9th to discuss Review Team recommendations, then bring their recommendation to RHC on May 11th. Note there are 4 RHC meetings in the first 1.5 weeks of May, including RHC retreat meetings.

Councilmember Hess asked for a list of RFP applications.

Agenda Item 4: Rent Assistance Discussion

Tom gave an update on the current status of rent assistance. Livestories is processing applications and payments have gone out this week. They are prioritizing those clients who had applications in process and those who had DRC referrals. On April 25th the application process will be open for clients who had started applications with CAC but not completed the process. Applications will open to the public in May. Discussion follows regarding if the County is tracking rent increases in this data, if there is a way to cap rent increases, and status of evictions. According to DRC there has been an increase in eviction filings. Is there any information on how many people did not pay rent but could, as an action of solidarity? County does not have that data, only have data regarding people who have applied for rent assistance and those people have to show financial hardship. Discussion follows about landlord hardships as a result of rent nonpayment. Landlords can apply for State funds to rehabilitate damaged property.

Agenda Item 5: RHC and HAT Retreat Update

Darian gave an update, the retreat will have two locations, one day at Olympia City Hall one day at Lacey Community Center. Interviews have begun, themes that arise from the interviews will allow them to develop the agenda, including policy, procedure discussions. Dates are the 6th and the 13th, the agenda will be sent out in advance after the interviews are completed.

Agenda Item 6: Good of the Order

Councilmember Cooper gave an update, the County and City have met, finalizing priorities for the ILA for the Home fund. ILA is currently with the attorneys.

Councilmember Hess is working with City Planners to look at ordinances and codes to allow more mixed use buildings, with business below and apartments above.

Tom gave an update, the County and Olympia visited the Franz Anderson property. Keith added they are beginning talks about use of the property. Just beginning the planning process, the City engineering team is working on preliminary plans, the hope is to extend the infrastructure needed to serve housing development, tiny homes, shelter.

Meeting Adjourned: 4:30 pm

Next Meeting: April 27th, 4:00 pm