

Brooklyn Housing Authority
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Brooklyn Housing Authority – Minutes for Wednesday, July 20, 2022
10:00am at the Clifford B. Green Building

1) Roll Call – Bruce Parsons called the meeting to order at 10:00am.

Members Present:

Chairman	Bruce Parsons
Vice Chairman	Sandra Brodeur
Member	Lisa Arends

Others Present:

PHA Executive Director	Kathy Carter
PHA Business Manager	Sarah Schoppe
First Selectman	Austin Tanner
Board of Finance Liaison	Sandra Brodeur
Recording Secretary	April Lamothe

- 2) Reading and Approval of minutes:** Sandra Brodeur made a motion to accept the minutes from January 21, 2020. Bruce Parsons seconded the motion. Lisa Arends was not a member at the time of the 2020 meeting. No discussion. Motion passed 2-0-1 (Lisa Arends).
- 3) Election of Officers:** Bruce Parsons is the current chairman and the position is valid for three years according to State Statutes. Bruce Parson made a motion to nominate Sandra Brodeur for Vice Chairman. Lisa Arends seconded the motion. No discussion. Motion passed. The members decided not to keep the officer position of Treasurer at this time.
- 4) Discussion on status of Tiffany St and Front St regarding clean up:** Sandra Brodeur said that the buildings were getting better when she last had seen them. Austin Tanner mentioned that work was being done on Front St. Austin Tanner will extend an invitation to Michael Licamele, the owner of 29 Tiffany St and 5 Front St, to attend the next meeting to discuss the progress of the buildings.
- 5) Community Center:** Austin Tanner said that there is a signed agreement from 2014 for the Town to maintain the Community Center. If nothing was done to the agreement, it renewed for another year. Discussion ensued. Austin Tanner said that he will be having someone to look at the solar panels to see if they are working properly. Sandra Brodeur asked if the Housing Authority could just pass the title to the Town. Austin Tanner will mentioned it at the next Board of Selectmen meeting.
- 6) Affordable Housing:** Austin Tanner handed out copies of the Brooklyn Housing Plan to the members. Sandra Brodeur mentioned that she liked that Kathleen Drive was used as an example to show that affordable housing does not change the neighborhood. She also mentioned that Connecticut has grants to build affordable housing. It was mentioned that Joseph Voccio might be able to help with grants. Kathy Carter said that single family or duplex are the best to rent. She also mentioned that less than 10% of applicants are locals. The Brooklyn Housing Plan was discussed by the members.

Bruce Parsons complimented Kathy Carter and Sarah Schoppe for doing a great job running Quebec Square. He has been hearing many compliments about the apartments.

Sarah Schoppe asked which office reports affordable housing percentage to the State Connecticut. Austin Tanner will look into it.

Sandra Brodeur mentioned that there is money available from Small Cities to help residents fix up their homes. She also mentioned looking into Planning & Zoning rules about adding additions to a property; she has heard it is very strict.

Lisa Arends asked if there is enough demand for housing in the area; Kathy Carter commented that single family homes are in high demand. Bruce Parsons mentioned that duplexes are nice since the owner would have another source of income to help pay the mortgage. He also mentioned that these brand new owners would need to know basic home repairs and be able to afford to maintain the house. Kathy Carter suggested looking for grant for a developer to see what land is available for affordable housing and what role the Housing Authority could have in it.

Sandra Brodeur made a motion to add 7a) Going and Touring an Apartment in Upper Village to the agenda. Lisa Arends seconded the motion. No discussion. Motion passed.

7) Other Business: Austin Tanner mentioned that the Authority needs more members. It would be helpful to have a tenet as a member. Kathy Carter and Sarah Schoppe have both tried to get someone to become a member, but no one has wanted to join.

- Sandra Brodeur asked about the next meeting and what would be accomplished. Austin Tanner will reach out to Joseph Voccio and Michael Licamele and see if there are able to attend the next meeting.

8) Public Comment: None

9) Adjournment: Sandra Brodeur made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:55am. Everyone in attendance went and viewed the properties still under the jurisdiction of the Brooklyn Housing Authority.

Respectfully submitted,
April Lamothe
Recording Secretary