



MINUTES

ROCK COUNTY HOUSING AUTHORITY COMMITTEE MEETING WEDNESDAY, JUNE 2, 2021 – 9:00 A.M. Meeting was teleconferenced using Zoom

The meeting of the Rock County Housing Authority Committee was called to order at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, June 2, 2021. Chair Grahn presided. Members present: Billy Bob Grahn, Supervisor Kathy Schulz, Supervisor Shirley Williams, Jason Heidenreich, and Michelle Ponkauskas. QUORUM PRESENT.

Rock County Staff Present: Andrew Baker (Planning Director), Dana Sanwick (Office Coordinator), Richard Greenlee (Corporation Counsel).

1. Call to Order.
2. Adoption of Agenda
Moved by Supervisor Williams, **Seconded** by Supervisor Schulz.
Approved (5-0)
3. **Action Item:** Approval of Minutes of the Housing Authority Meeting held May 5, 2021 at 9:00am
Moved by Supervisor Williams, **Seconded** by Supervisor Schulz.
Approved (5-0)
4. Citizen Participation, Communications and Announcements
None
5. **Action Item:** Election of Chair and Vice-Chair.

Nomination for chair: Supervisor Williams nominated Supervisor Schulz.
Moved by Supervisor Williams, **Seconded** by BillyBob Grahn.
Approved (5-0)

Nomination for vice-chair: Supervisor Schulz nominated BillyBob Grahn.
Moved by Supervisor Williams, **Seconded** by BillyBob Grahn.
Approved (5-0)

Previous Chair BillyBob Grahn handed the meeting over to new Chair Supervisor Kathy Schulz.

6. **Possible Action Item:** Formal support of multi-jurisdiction letter sent to Rock County Court System encouraging change in the eviction procedures.

Letter has not been drafted yet.

Andrew Baker explained the reason for the letter in regards to Rock County's eviction policy. Andrew Baker also explained the national moratorium on evictions means renters must show hardship. Renters cannot just stop paying rent without filing for the moratorium.

Item removed as an action item from agenda. To be added to agenda for the next meeting.

Moved by Michelle Ponkauskas, **Seconded** by BillyBob Grahn.
Approved (5-0)

7. Discussion Regarding Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Document (2019)

BillyBob recommended keeping this item on the agenda for each meeting and checking in on how the goals are progressing.

Supervisor Williams inquired on if the document goals are discussed at the quarterly Consortium meetings. Andrew Baker gave a brief update from the last Consortium meeting.

BillyBob Grahn asked if committee members can attend the quarterly meetings with the Consortium. Andrew Baker replied in the affirmative.

Supervisor Schulz inquired on how outreach is being done. Supervisor Schulz suggested sending updated notices to lenders and realtors regarding the new limits for rehabilitation and down payment assistance.

Moved by Supervisor Schulz, **Seconded** by BillyBob Grahn.

8. American Rescue Plan Act Update

Andrew Baker gave a brief explanation of the American Rescue Plan Act as it pertains to funds that will be available through the Consortium for the HOME program. Final rule will provide direction on allowable activities for use of the funds. These funds will need to be obligated by 2024 and fully expended by 2030.

Many possibilities for funding expenditures but until the final rule is published there are many questions on what will be considered allowable use.

9. Continued Discussion Regarding the Role of Housing Authority in Rock County

Corporation Counsel Richard Greenlee explained how the Housing Authority is set up and the general limitations. The Housing Authority was created to administer HOME programs as Rock County does not have the authority to administer HOME funds. The Housing Authority is not a committee of the county board; it is the governing body of the Housing Authority. The county does not provide a budget for the Housing Authority; the Housing Authority seeks out grants and such on their own to generate funds for use of Housing Authority actions.

Supervisor Schulz announced that there will be a meeting with County Administrator Josh Smith on funding for the Housing Authority and what may be possible.

Richard Greenlee gave an overview on Dane County Housing Authority and the activities it provides to its community. Dane County Housing Authority is different as it is an entitlement community under the census block and receives direct allocations from the federal government. Section 8 voucher program, own and rent properties, participate in homelessness, veteran housing, housing for elderly, etc. The rent creates revenue to fund staff.

Supervisor Williams asked what the difference is between the Housing Authorities of Beloit, Janesville, and Rock County. Richard Greenlee explained that the Rock County Housing Authority could do the same projects as the Housing Authorities of Janesville and Beloit, but Rock County Housing Authority does not have the funding to accomplish the projects.

Andrew Baker expanded that there may be different statutory limitations for Janesville and Beloit than Rock County has.

BillyBob Grahn excused himself from the meeting at 10:26AM.

10. Suggestions for Future Meeting Topics

Continuation of the discussion of the role of the Housing Authority.
Establish goals and objectives for the committee.
Grant writing to obtain funds for the Housing Authority.

11. Discuss Future Meeting Schedule

Next meeting set for July 7, 2021 at 9:00AM.

12. Adjournment at 10:37AM

Moved by Supervisor Williams, **Seconded** by Supervisor Schulz

Respectfully Submitted – Dana Sanwick, Acting Secretary

These minutes are not official until approved by Committee.

Future Meeting Dates
July 7, 2021 9:00 AM