

RAB External Minutes of 6-9-22

1/ Budget Committee report was read and May bank statement (with beginning balance, expenditures, and ending balance) approved. RAB voted to approve increase in Zoom item in budget by \$600 to cover translation function.

2/Policy & Procedures Committee: (a) Internal & External Minutes: The Board approved the recommendation to have two sets of minutes for meetings going forward—one for RAB’s internal use (which would include details on attendance, any RAB internal business such as selecting who’s going to conferences, etc.), and the other which would be external and limited to items that might be of more general public/resident interest. In the “external” one, would delete any resident personal identifiers, but would say “a RAB member/alternate said” or “a resident guest asked”, etc. If they were statements from particular BHA staff, though, that would be included, since people might need to know which with BHA staff member to do follow up.

(b) Inviting United Front Against Displacement (UFAD) Boston to Future RAB Meeting: The Committee, after reviewing the Secretary’s letter to UFAD, UFAD’s response, and a followup request by BHA, recommended that UFAD be invited to participate at the end of a future RAB meeting (likely July 14), with overall time limited to 30 minutes (10 minutes for presentation, and 20 minutes to field RAB questions. The meeting would be on Zoom but not recorded. BHA, GBLS, or others who normally participate in meetings could listen in but not debate, and there would be a later opportunity for the BHA or other resident leaders to respond to UFAD’s response and presentation. Prior to the meeting, additional specific questions that people might want addressed in the UFAD presentation could be drafted and brought to a followup Policy & Procedures Committee meeting on June 29th. The RAB approved the recommendation, with the additional suggestion to limit the number of presenters to a reasonable number (two).

3/ Election Committee: Lueteshia (BHA) asked if any Board members/alternates wished to be on an Ad Hoc Election Committee to help plan for RAB elections, and once volunteers identified, a date and time for meeting and logistics (on Zoom, in person, hybrid) would be worked out. 4 people volunteered.

4/ Picnic: The Budget Committee had also suggested checking with the Board on whether to have a picnic to help lift people’s spirits, share experiences, etc. It was noted in the past that sometimes the picnic had just been for the RAB, and sometimes it had been open to task forces to send people. It was suggested to do it in August, and to see when the space near Orchard Gardens might be available. The Board agreed that Budget should explore this and figure out costs (noting that food costs would be higher for an outreach event), since this is combined in the budget with costs for a city-wide conference. Budget would come back with recommendations.

5/ ISHI/RAB Conference: Mac (GBLS) noted that the RAB had said earlier in the year that there should be a city-wide conference to focus on redevelopment issues, and this could follow up on

what was done by the RAB and BHA (with funding from each) in 2019. There is funding that BHA has from the ISHI grant for this which can be used with RAB funding. It would be good to get tenants from the Mixed Finance Residents Group to help with this; 3 volunteered.

6/ Unfinished/New Business: Minutes from prior meeting OK'd. BHA made the first payment for new RAB funds for this fiscal year. Amory Street could be available for in-person RAB meetings when the Board wanted to do that, but investigation needed about how well hybrid could work there (and in-person likely hold until fall). Bob Terrell from BHA will confer with RAB on a date separate from its normal calendar for a session on Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing and Racial Equity initiatives; a Board member also volunteered to serve on Racial Equity Steering Committee (year's commitment, monthly meetings). Vice Treasurer reported that Mass. Union refund (for conference arrangements not needed) and balance of certain per diems returned.

7/ Evaluation: Good meeting, well facilitated, no arguments. Started on time & got done ahead of time.