
SEATTLE HOUSING AUTHORITY
REGULAR BOARD BRIEFING
MEETING AGENDA

LOCATION Seattle Housing Authority, Jesse Epstein Rm, First Floor, 190 Queen Anne Ave N

DATE Tuesday, January 13, 2015 7:30-9:00 a.m.

BOARD ATTENDEES Aser Ashkir Kollin Min (Absent)
Nora Gibson, Chair Doug Morrison, Vice Chair
John Little (Absent) Deborah Canavan Thiele
Juan Martinez (Absent)

DISTRIBUTION SHA Board of Commissioners; Cabinet

AGENDA:

1. Utilization 2014 Year-end and Monthly Update
2. Resolution No. 5074: Bond Trustee Substitution (from BNY Mellon)
3. Yesler Update

Executive Session:

4. Executive Director Accountability Agreement (postponed)

Board Co-Chair Morrison opened up the meeting at 7:43am.

MEETING NOTES:

Review Topic Updates and 1/20/15 Special Board Meeting Agenda Items

Utilization 2014 Year-end & Monthly Update

Rental Assistance Programs Director Lisa Wolters provided an in-depth update on voucher utilization within the Housing Choice Voucher Program for the months of November and December 2014, as well as for year end 2014. This report to the Board was at the request of Commissioner Min at the 12/15/14 Regular Board Meeting. Ms. Wolters also submitted a Utilization Dashboard to the Board, which will be submitted monthly to the Board for number comparisons of prior and current figures to date.

Resolution No. 5074: Bond Trustee Substitution (from BNY Mellon)

As one of the three companies that provide trust services for SHA, Bank of New York Mellon has not been meeting the required level of customer service for the agency. SHA staff has met with this bond trustee to discuss their concerns; however, the concerns have not been addressed, and the service has not improved. Due to a host of inaccuracies and lack of attention to deadlines for information submittal and payment transactions, Resolution No. 5074 would authorize SHA to select a substitute trustee for the bond issues currently administered by Bank of New York Mellon

Yesler Update

Community Services Administrator John Forsyth updated the Board on the progress of the Yesler Terrace sewing class; 19 women completed the first class, and part two of the class will begin this month. SHA staff continues to research companies that would be interested in hiring the class graduates, either individually, or as a collective group. The class is moving in a positive direction. He also made note of an ESL class made up of 15 Yesler Terrace residents, with a class focused on customer service which is a request of the employment partners (Harborview, Swedish and the City of Seattle). All of the students in that class are being placed in job shadowing assignments with one of the three employers. The employment partners are requesting the highest ESL level possible, that being a level 5, as a condition for the job training. They have faced a number of union issues, but have been able to circumvent those situations and have been able to move forward with the class. They also are working through issues relating to the Muslim culture and religion of some of the class participants, and their concerns as to how

they could be given accommodation in the workplace regarding their religious and culture outlook towards work.

Development Director Stephanie Van Dyke reported that construction at 1105 E. Fir is coming along nicely and nearing completion by the end of February 2015, with residents moving in as early as March. A grand opening is being considered for sometime in May/June 2015. Some of the units at 1105 E. Fir are Breathe Easy units, units that are designed to be healthier for residents with respiratory illnesses and asthma. There is an effort to kick start a Breathe Easy Program, in conjunction with the American Lung Association, for units in future buildings. Information will be available to all residents with information to make their homes healthier.

The agency conducted a process to name the SHA owned buildings at Yesler. The process included staff and residents. The process yielded a group of names to be used as buildings are completed. The first building to be named is the 1105 E. Fir building; it will now be called Kabero Court.

SHA Communication Director

Executive Director Lofton introduced Kerry Coughlin, SHA's new Communications Director to the Board.

Executive Director Lofton proposed that in the interest of time, that his 2014 Accountability Goals and evaluation be discussed the January 20th Special Board Meeting. The Board concurred.

Everyone wished Co-Chair Morrison a very happy birthday.

Board Chair Nora Gibson adjourned the meeting at 8:39am.

Secretary-Treasurer