

MINUTES
OWATONNA HOUSING AND REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
REGULAR MEETING on JUNE 28, 2021

The regular meeting of the Owatonna Housing and Redevelopment Authority was called to order at 4:00 pm in the Second Floor Conference Room by Senior Member Olivo.

Members present were John Hole, Shari Kropp, and Vicki Olivo. Also present were Housing Manager Ghassan Madkour and Planning Technician Kristen Kopp.

Approval of the Minutes: Senior Member Olivo called for a motion to approve the minutes of the May 24, 2021 meeting. A motion was made by Kropp and seconded by Hole to approve the minutes. All Commissioners voting Aye, the motion carried.

Old Business: The Housing Choice Voucher program monthly report was presented by Madkour, including the City of Owatonna monthly balance sheet and revenue/expense report. Program utilization: The Housing Voucher program for May totaled 102. Total year to date assistance and administration costs were \$297,246.22 and revenues were \$383,951.73. The Housing Choice Voucher Program fund balance at May month end is \$148,141.46. Madkour provided City of Owatonna HRA monthly balance sheet and revenue/expense reports for the HRA General Fund including the Bridges Programs. The HRA Revenues year to date total is \$209,531.89 and the expenses total \$190,052.80. The HRA General Fund balance is \$356,247.03.

Madkour said that there hasn't been much movement on the traditional voucher program. They've had three new clients this year. Everything is on course. He spoke with the HUD representative in Minneapolis about the Mainstream Program. They still don't know if this will be a permanent program or limited to 5 years for the clients.

Madkour said that at the end of this month, they will start with a brand-new Bridges Grant. He had an email from Minnesota Housing that they're waiting for the State to pass their budget. He said that there was a \$24,000 grant for Bridges RTC that was never touched before he started in Owatonna. It only could be used for clients coming from St. Peter or Anoka. It went away because it wasn't used. One person is coming off the Bridges Like Program and he will have to terminate that person on July 31st because of recent criminal background. They will refill that unit. There are 19 clients on regular Bridges and 7 on Bridges Like. We will be utilizing about \$20,000 a month.

There is a lot more activity on the Mainstream program. He sent out 54 applications. Out of that, seven are waiting for more information, two are in background check, two are ready for an orientation, five have leased up for July 1st, and 38 (the rest) of the applications were not returned or denied. He received a few calls over the last week from people who didn't return their applications. Things are in motion with the rest of them.

They are coming out with 200,000 emergency vouchers in October. He said that he will be applying for them. This would be for applicants that are homeless, risk of homeless, or abuse situations. Kropp asked if he would talk to a crisis resource center. Olivo mentioned talking to Meg Mitchell at the public defender's office.

A motion was made by Hole and seconded by Kropp to approve the reports as presented. All Commissioners voting Aye, the motion carried.

Other Business. Madkour gave an update on the Bridges Grant. They're waiting for State approval. Paperwork has been signed off on. He said there was some conversation that if we're at a point where we still have a lot of funds, he'd like to apply that money to applicant's deposits.

Madkour gave an update on renthelpmn.com. There was a total of \$104,517,000 requested statewide with over 20,000 applicants. He said that the current end date for the eviction moratorium is July 31st.

Madkour said that he purged the waitlist. 84 applicants were mailed letters to reply to within two weeks. 49 came off the waitlist. Three are still pending, because they were sent new letters to new addresses. 32 stayed on the waitlist. Currently 110 are on the waitlist. Out of those, 12 will be coming off because they're part of the processing for Mainstream.

Olivo questioned the Rental Housing Expenditure on the Income Statement and wondered why it is - \$4,700. Madkour said he'd look into it.

Kropp said that Jolayne Mohs is the new Director of Outreach at Trinity Church.

The next meeting will be Monday, July 26, 2021.

Adjournment: There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Kropp, seconded by Hole. All Commissioners voting Aye, the motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 4:53 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ghassan Madkour
Housing Manager