

Ridgefield Housing Authority Board Meeting
Approved Minutes
Wednesday November 4, 2020 at 8:00AM
Meeting held via Conference Call

Conference Call 351 999 3184 (no code needed)

Commissioners Present:, Frank Coyle, Vincent Liscio, Paul Janerico, Jan Hebert, Elaine Freistadt
Board Guest: Debra Renfranceschie

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Coyle at 8:03 AM

A Motion to Approve Minutes from October 21, 2020 was made by Mr. Liscio and seconded by Ms. Freistadt - all approved.

A Motion to Approve Financial Report was made by Ms. Freistadt and seconded by Mr. Liscio – all approved.

A Motion to Adjourn Meeting was made by Mr. Liscio and seconded by Ms. Hebert – all approved

Financial Report: Mr. Janerico stated that there were no updates to his report from last meeting.

Old Business

MoW – New lease almost set to be completed with exception of charges for Property Insurance and trash collection.

Awning – Mr. Liscio submitted request for lettering to be done. Doug explained water run off situation to Messrs. Coyle and Liscio and they agreed it should be fine. Going without plastic panel for time being. Will reconsider if need arises.

Fountain – Disconnected now; suggested a holiday tree be substituted for time being.

Chairlift – Mr. Liscio, Mr. Coyle, Ms. Freistadt, and Doug conducted test. First solo run conducted without passenger. After a couple runs up and down, Ms. Freistadt became its first passenger. Although a bit apprehensive at first, Ms. Freistadt found the device comfortable and became quite confident with “the ride”. This is not a substitution for elevator, just a device to assist in emergency situations.

Pavilion – Almost complete. Last piece is to fill in cracks between piles so devices don’t get stuck inadvertently. Write up on Pavilion being prepared (Ms. Hebert) for official “opening” and Kim P and Michelle looking to suggest furniture options which will be presented to residents for their consideration. Ms. Freistadt concerned that only one egress is available for visitors to pavilion. Ms. Hebert agrees. Mr. Coyle and Mr. Liscio will look into options.

Walkaround – Will take place shortly . . .no date in November decided as yet but will have two – one at Prospect (note: small parking lot hole needing to be patched) and one at Ballard which will include commissioners, Konover staff and Doug.

Emergency Planning - Ms. Hebert has a very comprehensive document almost completed that she believes to be very thorough for the RHA properties. She will send to appropriate authorities for review before making public.

Tenant Election – Ms. Harney, along with Ms. Palmer and Ms. Freistadt working on the preparation of a package to be sent to each residents’ homes with information pertaining to the election process including dates.

Congrats to Elaine Freistadt – Mr. Coyle, representing the RHA Board and their associates, paid lovely compliments to Ms. Freistadt concerning her time on the Board as Tenant Commissioner. He thanked her for the fine job she has done in supporting the Board and residents. She will be missed. He wished her well with her sabbatical at her daughter’s home for the next six months and looked forward to her return next year.

New Business

Selectman Meeting - Frank Coyle reported on the Ridgefield Affordable Housing Committee proposal to the Board of Selectman which he attended. The Board approved the request for the committee to request state funding for a feasibility study to assess an affordable housing project on town property on Prospect Ridge. Jan Hebert requested monthly updates on the project.

Feting the Residents – In view of COVID and the restrictions we are experiencing, Ms. Hebert questioned what our position would be on the different organizations that prepare little gifts for the residents and whether or not that can continue. This will be checked.

Dementia – Ms. Hebert noted that our population is aging and the pandemic has not cast a favorable effect on how they may handle isolation. Ms. Palmer continues to schedule events and advise residents of their taking place, however, involvement is almost nil recently. What can we do to try to motivate residents as well as ensure that they are remaining as healthy as they can? Several suggestions were discussed; however, she will contact Kim P at Konover since there are meetings each week with many Congregates and perhaps others can suggest some things to try that they have found effective. Also discussed was reaching out to families and bringing this to their attention and tap into Commissioner on Aging and Church involvement to solicit ideas.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:55PM

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by Secretary Patricia Harney