

Minutes of the May 24, 2021 Board Meeting

The Regular Meeting of the Englewood Housing Authority was called to order at 7:04 PM by Chairman Aguila at the offices of the Englewood Housing Authority, 111 West Street, Englewood, NJ 07631 via conference call and in compliance with NJ electronic meeting regulations. The Executive Director complied with the Open Public Meetings Act and stated that adequate notice of this meeting was provided in the following manner: on January 13, 2021 a notice of the date, time and place of this meeting was sent to the Bergen Record and Star Ledger newspapers and a copy was sent to the City Clerk and also posted on the City's officially designated bulletin board along with EHA's website as per electronic meeting regulations.

Roll call:

Chairman Aguila	Present
Vice Chairwoman Cobb	Present
Commissioner Chaney	Present
Commissioner Correa	Absent
Commissioner Gurfein	Present
Commissioner Whilby	Present
Domingo Senande, Executive Director	Present
William Katchen, CPA	Present
Terrence Corrison, Esq.	Present

Minutes

A motion was made by Chairman Aguila and seconded by Commissioner Gurfein to approve the minutes of the April 26, 2021 Board Meeting. The motion carried with all in favor.

Executive Director's Report

Tibbs Programming

- Given new CDC guidelines, EHA has brought back the picnic benches to the back of 111 West Street for resident use.

Resident Issues

- At the last meeting, it was mentioned that EHA's Tenant Liaison recently assisted a resident in entering a 30-day inpatient substance abuse program. The Tenant Liaison has been successful in getting a second resident into substance abuse rehabilitation. EHA will continue to focus on informing residents of the available resources in the community.

Westmoor Gardens

- As a precaution, EHA is currently gathering pricing for security guards to patrol Westmoor Gardens at night. The idea is, if needed, to have Security Guards

walk the site from say 7pm until 1am on Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Holiday nights. I did reach out to the Police Department this morning to ask if there were any issues with the property that we are not aware of. They said there were not any. In addition, we have 3 staff members that live at Westmoor Gardens and they report the property is quiet. Nevertheless, I would like to have the contract for Security Guards in place as a precaution.

Operation Homecoming

- EHA was a member of the Englewood Homeless Initiative known as Operation Homecoming which was spearheaded by the Englewood Police Department. Homelessness and street living was identified as a crisis which can no longer be ignored in Englewood. Therefore, a multi-disciplinary team was established to identify, locate, contact and rescue homeless people living outdoors in Englewood. Multiple Zoom meetings were held to discuss the issue and how to permanently resolve it. The meetings culminated with the outreach team going out into the community on May 6th. The outreach team consisted of EPD, Bergen County Prosecutor's Office, Englewood DPW, County Homeless Shelter, PATH Outreach, County Nurse, Shelter Social Worker, Recovery Specialist, Englewood Housing Authority, Housing Search Specialist from Care Plus of NJ, Board of Social Services, New Bridge Hospital, etc. The operation was a success. Several people were transported to a hotel. Others were transported to the hospital to receive medical care and other services. Others were processed for permanent housing. In collaboration with the Housing Authority of Bergen County which manages the County Shelter, EHA is currently processing two individuals for a Section 8 voucher. One of these individuals would from time-to-time be found sleeping in the stairwells of Tibbs when it was too cold outside. Three of EHA's staff members were deployed to McDonald's the morning of May 6th to convince this gentleman to finally accept help. Thanks to their persistence and to the expertise of the full outreach team, he will be housed soon. It was a privilege to be a part of Operation Homecoming.

Administrative Office Rehabilitation

- The grant-funded rehabilitation of the Administrative Offices is underway. On for resolution is the selection of the architect (\$44,400 plus expenses). The architect will take approximately 6 weeks to complete the plans and specifications. EHA will then publicly bid the construction of the project. Construction is expected to take 3-4 months. During that time, the Administrative Offices will not be utilized as office space. The project involves the complete gut-rehab of the office which will make the space fully ADA-compliant and safe for current and future coronavirus outbreaks via enhanced HVAC, etc.

Public Meeting

A motion was made by Commissioner Chaney and seconded by Vice Chairwoman Cobb to open the meeting to the public. No members of the public had comments. A motion was then made by Chairman Aguila and seconded by Commissioner Whilby to close the meeting to the public. The motions carried with all in favor.

Resolutions

A motion was made by Chairman Aguila and seconded by Vice Chairwoman Cobb to approve the one-year contract extension for William Katchen, CPA. The motion carried with all in favor.

A motion was made by Commissioner Gurfein and seconded by Vice Chairwoman Cobb to approve the one-year contract extension for Hymanson, Parnes and Giampaolo, CPA. The motion carried with all in favor.

A motion was made by Commissioner Whilby and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to approve the one-year contract extension for Breslin & Breslin, PA. The motion carried with all in favor.

A motion was made by Vice Chairwoman Cobb and seconded by Commissioner Gurfein to approve the \$350,000 CDBG award from the County of Bergen. The motion carried with all in favor.

A motion was made by Commissioner Whilby and seconded by Vice Chairwoman Cobb to award Lothrop Associates the architectural and engineering contract for the renovation of the Administrative Offices. The motion carried with all in favor.

A motion was made by Vice Chairwoman Cobb and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to approve the bills and claims for the month of May. The motion carried with all in favor.

New Business

Not applicable.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Commissioner Chaney and seconded by Chairman Aguila to adjourn the meeting at 7:36PM. The motion carried with all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Domingo Senande
Executive Director