Boston Housing Authority Resident Advisory Board (RAB) External Notes, Mtg. Aug. 11, 2022 Minutes from prior meeting OK'd.

1/ <u>Budget Committee</u>: Bank statement for July had been approved by Committee. Committee had recommended that picnic be postponed since there were reduced numbers not saying they'd attend (down from 18 to 10) and given ancillary costs (renting chairs, etc.) was no longer cost-effective and another date with more advance time for scheduling should be selected. Committee had also recommended that several RAB user accounts be created for use of the RAB Zoom (one each for chairs, one each for standing committees, one for ad hoc committees, and one for general membership). Committee had finally recommended paying dues for NLIHC while continuing to look into dues for other organizations to answer some questions (NAR-SAAH, CHAPA, etc.) as outlined in report. On the committee recommendations, all three were accepted by the Board after some debate.

2/ Bylaw Election Amendments: Mac went through changes in the bylaws (mostly in Article 1) related to the elections, following up on the election recommendations that the Board had done at the July 2022 meeting. He noted that getting these into the bylaws was important so that as vendors are identified to assist with election and outreach, the "scope of the work" is reflected in bylaw language. As discussed at last meeting, there is flexibility about how exactly to do certain things, with the election committee and the vendors to make final decisions (for example, whether information or election meetings would be virtual or in person, since state of the pandemic may vary). He asked if the RAB was OK with the idea that the election committee could require, for Leased Housing elections, that people indicate an interest in participating, since otherwise we could be sending out hundreds or thousands of pieces of material to BHA Section 8 tenants who have no interest. A Leased Housing member agreed that this made sense. Mac also noted that while the draft did not include a bar on people running who had been removed from the RAB for cause (other than non-attendance), the RAB might want to consider that. Language was added to say that people could not run if they owed the RAB money (for example, never reimbursed the RAB for improper expenses) or were in violation of the BHA Anti-Harassment Policy (since regular interaction with the BHA is part of being on the RAB). Mac also clarified that, while the summary didn't adequately cover this, he had added language to the portion of the bylaws on eligibility to serve on the RAB that Board members/alternates would be respectful and courteous in the use of email.

A RAB member said she thought it would be a good idea to add language disqualifying those removed from the RAB for cause (other than non-attendance) from running in the future. Mac suggested voting on that as an amendment first, and then voting on the rest of the package that went out in advance. The suggestion was made as a motion, seconded, and adopted.

On the overall packet, a RAB member asked what the mechanism would be if someone were thought to have violated the email provision. Mac said once it was incorporated into the bylaws (not there yet—there is language about treating members/alternates with respect at meetings

but nothing on emails), if someone felt this was violated, it could be brought to the Board like any other issue of whether a member/alternate was following the guidelines, and appropriate action (removal, lesser sanction) could be considered, but majority would need to agree (could be debate about whether someone's conduct "crossed the line" or not). A RAB alternate asked if this could include texts as well (for example, if members were swearing at each other in texts). Mac thought this could be possible, since there would be a record (unlike private phone calls, where there would not). However, other members pointed out that the texts between individuals would be private unless shared with the group with consent, and this could be difficult to police. Mac suggested that he think about this and come back with language on the texting issue, but in the meantime that the language about use of email be adopted. It was moved, seconded, and approved without any opposition to adopt the election bylaw amendments (with the amendment adopted earlier in the meeting).

3/ <u>Unfinished/New Business</u>, <u>Announcements</u>, <u>etc.</u>:

- (a) Meeting with UFAD: It was noted that while the RAB hadn't had a presentation by the United Front Against Displacement (UFAD) in July because that wasn't a good date for them, UFAD had expressed willingness to attend a RAB meeting in August or September, and it was simply too little time to check with the RAB for the August meeting. It was moved, seconded, and approved that UFAD should be invited to attend the Sept. RAB meeting (Thurs. 9/8) following the same arrangement as before (last half-hour of meeting, first 10-15 minutes for their presentation, and rest for RAB questions, and ask if they can get RAB responses to specific inquiries from Policy & Procedures meeting at the end of June). The RAB secretary had coordinated past communication with them, but not clear how long she may be laid up. RAB vice-secretary agreed she could do follow up on this with UFAD if RAB secretary cannot.
- (b) Posting of External Minutes; Use of Zoom Recoding Going Forward: Lueteshia noted that she gets regular inquiries about notes/minutes from RAB meetings from BHA residents, LTOs, etc., and wondered if the Board was OK about starting to post the external minutes on the RAB web site again. It was moved, seconded, and approved to do that, starting with the minutes from the last 2 months (where we started the process of having external and internal minutes), with the understanding that the external minutes would not have personal identifiers for RAB members/alternates and would remove strictly internal RAB discussions. Lueteshia noted that there was additional information about the RAB on the BHA's website, including a listing of members/alternates, and provided people with a link. Mac noted that the website information did not have addresses, phones or emails for the individuals on the RAB. Lueteshia also asked, now that meetings were on the RAB Zoom account, rather than BHA's, if the RAB was OK about having future meetings on Zoom recording. Mac suggested that this should occur after the RAB/UFAD meeting (since the whole issue of Zoom recording had been an issue of a past UFAD FOIA request that had led to the need for an executive session). It

- was moved, seconded, and approved to start Zoom recordings after the RAB/UFAD meeting.
- (c) *Financial Report*: RAB vice-treasurer reported on initial balance, receipts, disbursements, and final balance for July 2022.
- (d) Job Fair; Fall RAB/ISHI Conference on Redevelopment: Lueteshia noted that there would be another BHA Job Fair by Zoom on 9/29--she emailed this to the Board during the meeting. She also noted that several RAB members had been on a planning committee for a fall conference on redevelopment which will be a collaboration with the ISHI collaborative. The date is now set for Saturday, Oct. 15th from 9 to 3, and there will be a combination of panel presentations and breakouts, with a piece for resident leaders to quickly share/respond on certain topics. She thought it would be a good idea to include something about the RAB for the conference, but this hadn't been worked in yet, and as the agenda gets finalized, will share this with the RAB.

<u>Evaluation</u>: Good meeting. Best to those in the hospital to get well soon.