ACT Board of Directors Meeting
December 18, 2010

MINUTES

**present:** ACT Board: [16]; ACT Board excused: [2]; ACT non-Board: [5]

Announcements: Copies of the November Board meeting were distributed. DS made a motion to accept the minutes. KW seconded the motion. The motion passed 11-0-0.

CAPZ announced the big news that the MOU had been accepted with no meaningful changes. The two negotiation teams had met another time to iron out differences over “meaningful participation” and Greg Russ had accepted them. To become official, the Cambridge Housing Authority Board of Commissioners has to accept them. They are expected to do so at their meeting on January 26. We hope all ACT Board members and other interested parties will attend. The location and time of this meeting will be announced. CAPZ handed out copies of the complete MOU amid applause.

Moving-to-Work Annual Draft Plan

CAPZ noted that the preview meeting for the MTW Draft plan was confusing. ACT and CHA had their signals crossed and the representatives from CHA only stayed for an hour. We had been expecting a two-hour meeting with more representation from CHA. The CHA staff had been willing to stay longer at that time and in the future we will note specifically what each side expects from the other in such meetings. The preview meeting is supposed to be a chance for dialogue about the plan between residents and CHA.

Major Issues to note in the plan include:

Greg Russ has made changes in the tenant council recognition policy. He does not want to have an MOU with the tenant councils but has not made clear what he does want. Having just completed our own MOU, it is concerning that the CHA may offer less chance for meaningful participation in the tenant councils.

CHA is going to be writing a new Administrative Plan for the Leased Housing Program some time this year. This will be the first change in the plan since Rent Control was repealed in Cambridge. Areas that ACT will want to ask for input include:

- Leased Housing handbook
- Time-limited voucher programs
- Continuing federalization and project based Section 8

Voucher Committee Announcements

LF announced that the next meeting of the Stigma Group would be held on January 10 at 7 pm at the ACT office. This meeting is open to both Voucher and Public Housing tenants.

KW noted that the first meeting of the Voucher Housing Search Group would be held January 18 at 7 pm. This group helps people with Vouchers from the Cambridge Housing Authority pool resources to find housing.

Conversation was held on several topics including stigma and issues of the voucher committee. HF suggested starting a walking group.

Submitted by KW