ACT Board of Directors Meeting
May 1, 2010

MINUTES

present:

The Chair called the meeting to order at 3:10 PM.

ACT Co-Treasurer DS is in Neville Manor after having spent several weeks in Spaulding Rehabilitation. He was struck by a car in Central Square and his leg was broken. We will send him ACT material and get-well wishes.

CHA is sponsoring a capacity-building workshop on June 19 to help ACT Board and committee members maximize their organizing skills. The workshop organizer will contact all who inform Sothea that they intend to participate and will ask for input into the material to be covered.

Washington conference reports

Presentations were made by the three board members who attended a recent conference in Washington, D.C. concerning HUD’s activities in the subsidized housing field. It was sponsored by the National Low-Income Housing Coalition. Workshops were run by HUD staff and concerned current (and future) housing programs. One aspect of the three-day conference was to discuss current legislation with members of Congress on Capitol Hill.

March minutes

Motion to accept the minutes of the March 27 Board meeting was made by KW and seconded by CAPZ. MOTION CARRIES 10-8-0.

Filling Board vacancy

ST moved to reinstate JR as a public housing member of the ACT Board. Second by BC. MOTION CARRIES 14-6-0.

CHA Quarterly meeting

CHA’s next Quarterly tenant leadership meeting will be at the Pisani Center May 5. Questions submitted by ACT members ahead of the meeting will be answered. What funding sources exist in CHA for tenant services? How do tenants file for compensation in good time when maintenance and rehab. operations leave damage and/or danger to the tenant? Can inspections be joined together rather than having many separate inspections? As CHA Tenant Liaison Sothea is responsible for the agenda.
Committee Reports

MOU [Memorandum of Understanding]: Susan H summarized the past month’s negotiations with CHA. A three page document was distributed including sections of the MOU which have been tentatively agreed.

A&O [Assistance and Outreach]: Purposes and goals and the dynamics of meetings were discussed at the April 17th meeting of A&O. Interpreters are needed at tenant council meetings for Hispanic and Creole speakers and to enable full participation in ACT meetings. We need to meet with CEOC and Boston Interpreters Collective to discuss the politics of language justice. The community gardens initiative is progressing. Some members are discussing a CCTV program through ACT is being promoted.

For the Love of Art: There will be an exhibit in September of art work by CHA residents, to be held at the Stebbins Gallery at First Church Unitarian in Harvard Square. A new tenant council was elected at Washington Elms –Newtowne Court on April 21. The Millers River election was supervised by ACT and CHA on April 26. Putnam Gardens will elect a tenant council on June 9.

Reasonable modifications case: NL, a CHA resident and former president of Burns Apartments Tenant Council, explained her complaint against CHA for failing to provide reasonable accommodations and modifications for Persons With Disabilities. The Cambridge Human Rights Commission has found for her and turned the case over to the State Attorney General’s office.

Voucher sub-committee meeting: The sub-committee’s questionnaire will be distributed at the Cambridge River Festival June 5 and at other public venues, such as street fairs, senior centers, and CEOC. An article by ACT will appear on page one of the CHA newsletter for voucher residents to be mailed soon. Reception desks at CHA should also have ACT brochures.

TAC [Technical Assistance]: ACT’s Technical Advisory Committee meets on May 10. They will be talking about the upcoming MTW hearing, particularly concerning the new schedule of charges to residents for various public housing maintenance expenses. TAC will develop public comment about this and clutter issues, which must be submitted between May 3 and June 2. Members were asked to submit comments first to ACT for discussion at the May 10 meeting.

Motion made by ST and Seconded by GC to approve ACT sponsorship of the art exhibit. Motion carried 13-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:40 p.m.