

**OLNEYVILLE CHOICE  
PRINCIPALS MEETING  
APRIL 20, 2012**



**PROVIDENCE HOUSING AUTHORITY BOARD ROOM @ 9:00 AM – 10:50AM**

## **MINUTES**

### **INTRODUCTIONS**

Sorrel Devine called the meeting to order at 9:05am.

#### **ATTENDEES**

##### **Present:**

Sorrel Devine	Christine Medeiros
Lisa Castellanos	Jennifer Hawkins
Richard Weinberg	Nate Ginsburg
Frank Shea	Barbara Thornton
Nancy Howard	Melissa Sanzaro
Garry Bliss	Monique Hazard

### **QUARTERLY REPORT:**

- Ms. Sanzaro stated the quarterly report for April 2012 was completed and forwarded to HUD and a copy was emailed to all Principals.

### **CONFERENCE CALLS WITH HUD CHOICE TEAM:**

- Frank Shea, Stephen O'Rourke and Lisa Castellanos participated in the HUD conference call on March 28, 2012. Copies of conference call minutes were handed out to all attendees. The next conference call will be held on Wednesday, April 25, 2012 at 3pm.

### **CONTRACTS UPDATE:**

#### **SOCIAL VENTURE PARTNERS RHODE ISLAND (SVPRI) CONTRACT STATUS:**

- Ms. Hawkins stated that SVPRI is coordinating with Bryant University to conduct focus groups. The focus groups are made up of individuals interested in starting a business, including those who have completed the Sherwin Williams Home-Work Painter Program. Additionally, interviews will be conducted with existing businesses in Olneyville Square. The interviews will include questions regarding the new store front ideas proposed by Brewster Thornton.

#### **MEETING STREET CONTRACT STATUS:**

- Mr. Shea stated he will be contacting Meeting Street regarding their contract status updates. The Principals plan to invite Meeting Street to the next meeting in May to receive a more detailed update on their progress.

## **PRINCIPALS UPDATES:**

### **PROVIDENCE HOUSING AUTHORITY**

- Mr. Weinberg stated the geothermal estimating is on hold due to the possibility of a complete Manton Heights demolition. Similarly, Ms. Thornton stated that the Housing component of the Transformation Plan is also on hold.
- Ms. Sanzaro also highlighted that the coordination of the Neighborhood Resident Meetings is behind schedule and a more concerted effort will be made to organize the meetings. The neighborhood residents will be updated on the proposed Brewster-Thornton Transformation Plan and on the results of the Manton Heights Needs Assessment Survey.

### **OLNEYVILLE HOUSING CORPORATION**

- Mr. Shea stated a meeting took place with the Providence Community Health Centers (PCHC) regarding the location of the Center and the possibility of relocating it to the Imperial Knife site.
- The Foreclosure Project, including 40 units around the D'Abate School, is underway.
- Mr. Shea stated that OHC is close to finalizing a legal agreement, to purchase the Imperial Knife Co. building, from the California Cell company that currently owns the property. The agreement includes OHC ownership of the Imperial Knife Company and the vacant lots and houses located on King Street. Prior to this contract, the asking price of these properties was \$1.2M; presently OHC will be paying \$175,000. The property could possibly be the site for a new library or a community center. The total amount of land is 9 acres plus an additional 50,000 square feet.
- Mr. Shea also stated that Curtis Arms has not been cooperative with OHC and that a way to obtain their support is necessary in order to move forward with the Implementation Grant application. The goal of purchasing this property is definitely a long term one.
- The D'Abate School improvements continue. The fence work in the front of the building should be complete by May 2012. Additionally, significant progress has been made in the back of the school. The Principals expressed interest in hosting a "charette" with parents and students of the school.
- Additionally, Mr. Shea stated that he would like to ask RI Housing for assistance in acquiring property on King Street and the St. Theresa Church Property. These properties could be used as transitional properties for residents. There is some urgency with regards to the Church since the ownership is scheduled to change on one year's time.

### **LOCAL SUPPORT INITIATIVE CORPORATION**

- Ms. Howard stated the Department of Justice released a solicitation for an Enhancement Grant and she suggested OHC apply for the funding. The total grant award is \$900,000 for the next three years. The grant focus will be safety and Ms. Howard is anticipating a conference call with OHC in order to discuss the application and work together to meet the May 2012 submission deadline.

- Ms. Howard also updated the attendees on the plan that Tina Brooks, VP for National LISC, has to pilot a better coordinated Choice Neighborhood Initiative at Manton Heights. Ms. Howard expressed that this project will only move forward in the Olneyville area if OHC benefits from the venture.
- Furthermore, the 2012 Section 4 grant was released and LISC will be applying if once the monies are granted, LISC receives 10% and OHC receives twenty percent of the funding.

#### **PLANNING DEPARTMENT**

- Mr. Bliss updated that there are changes being made in the CDBG. Some changes include increasing the amount of money being allocated to Olneyville. The CDBG would like to make Olneyville the focus for new business by charging businesses a supplemental fee where the grant will pilot the upkeep of the Business Improvement District. The project should be self-sufficient after one year.
- Mr. Shea updated the attendees on behalf of Bonnie Nickerson, stating that the Narragansett Bay Commission had agreed to own the Price Rite lot and Dunkin Donuts until 2015.
- Furthermore, through the ULI, Mayor Taveras has selected Olneyville Square to have the Rebar Bridge repaired and to have new light posts, trash cans and crosswalks added to the Square.
- Additionally, the HUD Challenge Grant continues to make improvements on the Manton Heights Corridor; trees were planted this week.

#### **BREWSTER-THORNTON**

- Ms. Thornton stated the work on the assessments and the entrance plans are on hold at Manton Heights.
- BTAG needs to interface with the Manton Heights Corridor work, specifically on the Manton Heights intersection.
- Ms. Thornton stated she would like to project the renovation costs for the Imperial Knife Company.
- BTAG will participate in the Neighborhood Resident Meetings.

#### **EXPANDING: IMPLEMENTATION GRANT PARTNERSHIPS:**

##### **DEVELOPERS UPDATE**

- Ms. Sanzaro stated the PHA will be contacting Winn Development to schedule a meeting with the Principals in May.
- Mr. Shea stated OHC will be contacting Trinity Financial for a meeting in May.

#### **NEXT STEPS:**

- The Principals agreed that the meeting in June will be 3 hours long and that Meeting Street School should be invited to attend.

#### **SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS**

- **PRINCIPALS' MEETINGS:** The Principals' Meetings will be held on every 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of the month at 9:00 A.M. The meeting locations will be determined.

- **SUB-PARTNER MEETINGS:** The sub-partner meetings format was discussed. It was decided that bringing all of the sub-partners together for one meeting was not necessarily productive. Sub-partners will be met with at other meetings and discussions will be recorded.

**The next meeting will be Friday, May 18, 2012 at 9am.**