

RESIDENT ADVISORY BOARD
HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO
REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday June 1, 2011

Community Room
Del Rio Terrace
1345 Ella Street
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401-4180
805-783-2899 (Chair)
805-543-4478 (HASLO Office)

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Art Apruzzese called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Art Apruzzese, Soseh Basmajian, Michael E. Simpson, Patricia Souza, Simon Tomassian

Absent: Debbie Altamirano, Christine Armstrong, Nancy DeLauer, Micaela Hernandez, Guadalupe Marroquin, Dizarene Price, Jonathan Richardson, Lynn Toomey, Jack White, Pamela White

Staff: Sarah Castilleja – Housing Specialist
Vela Herrera – Director of Housing Management
Jose Lemus – Director of Facilities (absent)
Traci Sturgeon – Sufficiency Specialist

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Apruzzese informed Members that Commissioner Sherman replaced Commissioner Nelson. Commissioner Sherman is the Founder and President of a local bank.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no Public Comments.

A. CONSENT ITEMS

Draft Minutes from the RAB meetings of December 7, 2010 and March 2, 2011 were approved.

B. DISCUSSION ITEMS

B – 1. PHA Plan Update

Mr. Apruzzese informed the Members that a Special Meeting of the RAB will be held at a date to be designated (late June or July) to consider the PHA Plan Update. The Plan will be presented to the Board by senior HASLO staff for review, comments and approval. **Mr. Apruzzese** said that annual review of the PHA Plan is a primary function of the RAB and attendance at the special meeting is very important.

B – 2. HASLO Smoking Policy Review (Continuation Agenda Item - 03/02/11)

Mr. Apruzzese reviewed the action that was taken by the HASLO Board of Commissioners and those of the “core group” of individuals who were charged by the Commission with writing a Transition Plan. This Plan will serve as a guide for the HASLO in implementing a comprehensive ban on the use of all tobacco products in public and non-profit housing. **Mr. Apruzzese** detailed several key elements of the pending Transition Plan. He stated that, if Members felt strongly that a comprehensive ban on the use of all tobacco products was not appropriate, they should contact staff and let them know they would like to present their views before the Board of Commissioners. It is anticipated that the Transition Plan will be part of the PHA Plan Update document.

Ms. Basmajian reaffirmed her opposition to a comprehensive ban. **Mr. Tomassian** expressed his concern about government intrusion and regulation into people’s personal business, but he also said that he understood the need for balance when it came to personal rights and responsibilities. **Mr. Simpson** reiterated his support for a comprehensive ban although his wife smokes. **Ms. Souza** said that she strongly favors a comprehensive ban and welcomes any effort to clear the air of smoke. She does not allow smoking in her apartment.

B – 3. Volunteer To Help HASLO Staff

Mr. Apruzzese requested that RAB Members consider the possibility of volunteering their time and energy to assist HASLO staff. He said that, due to funding reductions in federal support for affordable housing program administration, HASLO staff members are under increasing pressure to maintain existing services for clients. He said that he is currently volunteering his time in a variety of assignments to assist **Mr. Ken Litzinger**, Director of Finances for HASLO. He said that, depending on their particular skills and interests, other Members may be of service in easing the pressures on staff resources. **Mr. Apruzzese** expressed his conviction that democracy depended on ordinary citizens making the choice to participate in their communities and government.

It was especially imperative that citizens actively participate now because budget deficits were beginning to cripple the delivery of vital public services. He then read Minutes from the HASLO Board of Commissioners meeting of April 21, 2011 which corroborated his assessment.

Ms. Castilleja, stated that it had long been her desire and the desire of other staff members to more directly involve clients in performing volunteer activities in support of staff. She cited the **Community Service Program** as one such option. **Mr. Tomassian** and **Ms. Souza** stated their strong support for the concept of a staff/client volunteer network. **Mr. Tomassian** thought it was a good idea to create a “resource sheet.” This sheet could include a list of the names of clients, their skills, interests, and availability (hours/days) for assisting staff with volunteer activities. Staff members would also prepare a sheet listing their volunteer opportunities. Staff members, **Ms. Castilleja** and **Ms. Herrera** expressed their strong support for the “resource sheet” idea. **Mr. Apruzzese** requested that staff members bring this subject up at the next meeting of the staff and **Ms. Herrera** and **Ms. Castilleja** agreed to do so.

Mr. Apruzzese said that there appeared to be a consensus about the need for joint action between the HASLO staff, RAB Members and residents. He suggested that a joint Staff/RAB committee be established to coordinate a volunteer outreach campaign and that this body be named the **Volunteer Action Committee (VAC)**. A Member suggested the VAC might also coordinate fundraising activities. When **Mr. Apruzzese** asked who the funds would benefit, **Ms. Herrera** replied that they could be allocated to assist the staff and residents alike. Various options for raising money were explored; among these options were Cal Poly’s R.A.D. Program, public housing garbage bin maintenance, garage sales, furniture pick-ups and sales, Sunset car wash, California Pizza Kitchen, and can recycling. Several people promoted the idea of encouraging children and youth to participate in these volunteer activities as a way to stimulate community pride and instill good work ethics. The telephone number for the **Good Neighbor Program** was given (547- 7025 x 116).

Mr. Apruzzese asked for the names of Members who wanted to volunteer to serve on the Volunteer Action Committee and assist with community outreach activities; the following people responded: **Ms. Castilleja** (staff), **Mr. Tomassian**, **Ms. Souza** and **Ms. Basmajian** volunteered. **Mr. Apruzzese** will serve as the Interim Committee Chair.

B – 4. HASLO Website Improvements, HASLO Newsletter, RAB Brochure

Mr. Apruzzese updated Members about improvements in the HASLO website and referred them to copies of the May and June *HASLO Newsletter* which were parts of the meeting’s information packet. He asked if Members wanted to create a RAB brochure and Members expressed general support for the idea as a good way to market the group.

C. ACTION ITEMS

C – 1. Visitor Parking

Ms. Basmajian requested that three (3) to five (5) visitor parking spaces be designated at the public housing complexes at Leff and Augusta Streets in San Luis Obispo. She indicated that residents currently park on Toro Street. When the issue of identifying who was a visitor arose and how they would be monitored, **Ms. Basmajian** replied that the parking lots were closely watched by residents and enforcement would not be a problem. **Mr. Apruzzese** stated that parking regulations were already in place and that any deviation from these policies would have to be approved by **Mr. Jose Lemus**, Director of Facilities.

He said that the RAB did not have the authority to modify parking policies and he requested that **Ms. Herrera** ask **Mr. Lemus** for policy direction on this matter. **Ms. Herrera** agreed to do so.

D. NEW ITEMS

There were no New Items.

E. INFORMATION ITEMS

There were no Information Items.

NEXT MEETING DATE/LOCATION

The ninth regular meeting of the Resident Advisory Board-HASLO will be held on Wednesday, September 7, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. in the Community Room at the Del Rio Terrace Apartments located at 1345 Ella Street, San Luis Obispo, California (southwest corner of Johnson Avenue and Ella Street).

ADJOURNMENT

The eighth regular meeting of the Resident Advisory Board, HASLO adjourned at 7:30 p.m. Minutes prepared by **Art Apruzzese**.