

Bloomington Housing Action Team

April 14, 2020
Virtual meeting
1:30-3:00 P.M.

RECAP

Welcome and Introduction by City Staff

Brief Project Status Update - Cherie Shoquist (HRA)

Shoquist discussed were projects where in the pipeline. These are subject to change but as of today these are the projects staff is working on.

- **Village Club**
 - purchased, now working on health survey and maintenance plan
 - 172 unit new construction at 60% AMI. Gone through Development Review Committee next to Planning Commission, HRA Board, and finally City Council
- **Penn Place**
 - The project has been adjust to 40 units
- **The District (Knox and American)**
 - Constructing still ongoing during the pandemic
- **Rosa Development**
 - 20% affordable project near the Minnesota Valley Wildlife Refuge in South Loop

Public Health Update – Deb Miller (Bloomington Public Health Department)

Public Health gave an update on the Cities COVID-19 response. The Emergency Management System is in Place. This creates the command structure necessary to respond in emergencies.

Information has been sent to property owners about best practices.

A resource page has been created. Tracy Smith will share later how to access and what information is available. <https://www.bloomingtonmn.gov/ph/covid-19-resources>

While property owners are generally accepting of help, it has been difficult to assist tenants directly. Many rental offices have been shut down so gaining access to buildings is more difficult.

Social Distancing is helping to slow the spread. If you are in a building where people are not practicing social distancing and the property manager is not addressing the issue, please call Minnesota Department of Health's (MDH) Hotline or the police.

If you or someone you know is experience symptoms please call the MDH hotline.

If you live in an apartment building trying to avoid common areas is best. Wipe down surface when possible, wear a mask, and just staying home will help.

Update on trends HRA is seeing as a result of COVID-19 – Bryan Hartman (HRA)

HRA is as busy as ever. More and more people are losing their employment or employment is being adjust. The HRA must adjust their section 8 payments to adjust for differences in income. Processing

changes is moving quickly but is all remote. Email is the preferred method for making adjustments but phone also works.

HUD is expecting \$1.2 Billion from the CARES Act.

HRA has adjusted its operating procedures by no longer meeting clients in person (all over phone now) and no longer doing inspections.

HRA was able to provide \$200,000 to VEAP (along with donations from Edina and Richfield) to create an emergency housing assistance program.

Resource Overview – Tracy Smith (Community Outreach and Engagement Division)

Smith demonstrated how to find the latest resources to support those dealing with COVID-19

<https://www.bloomingtonmn.gov/ph/covid-19-resources>

The resource page is in multiple languages. It provides a wide range of information from the City, County, and State. Information about resource related to COVID-19, housing assistance, employment, food access, and more is available on the webpage.

There is also a how to help page for those who are willing and able to help.

The City has coordinated a community organization work group. Nicole Mills has been attending for Oasis for Youth and appreciates having the non-profit community and City working together to address issues.

Smith also discussed resources available about ADA requirements. These requirements are constantly changing and it's best to utilize the following website to ensure the latest information is being used:

- <https://www.ada.gov/cguide.htm>

Additional resources can be found here:

- <https://codes.iccsafe.org/content/MAC2015/2015-minnesota-accessibility-code> - MN State Code for Building Accessibility
- <https://www.ada.gov/ta-pubs-pg2.htm> - ADA Technical Guidance for Title II and Title III

While many things are required, the vast majority of the built environment are not covered under ADA. Certain triggers must be met for requirements. However, while not always required property owners can still be accommodating. Please check with Tracy about specific situations. She can help determine if there is a compliance issue and help work with property owners to find a reasonable accommodation.

Tracy's Contact information is:

Tracy Smith
952-563-4955
TSmith@Bloomingtonmn.gov

Next Meeting is June 9th. It will likely be another virtual meeting.