

## **Arlington Affordable Housing Trust Fund**

Minutes of the Meeting Held on August 22, 2024 (via zoom)

The meeting was called to order at 7:06pm. The following trust members were present: Karen Kelleher, Neal Mongold, Jaclyn Pacejo, and Eric Helmuth. Also present were Sarah Suarez, Laura Weiner, Rebecca Gruber, Kerry Sheehan, Vitalii Ihnatenko, Jim Doherty

### **1. Update on Acquisition, Creation, and Conversion Program -**

Ms. Suarez discussed a memo prepared for the Trustees outlining the most recent activity on the ACC Program. The memo discusses an application received in July for the acquisition of a two-family property to be converted to 2 affordable housing units. The applicant is interested in working with the AHA to rent to voucher holders and is preparing additional information as requested to complete the application. A second application was received in August from a property owner interested in converting an existing, multi-family building into an affordable housing building. The applicant is preparing additional information as requested to complete the application.

Ms. Suarez elaborated on conversations and meetings with prospective applicants interested in creating affordable housing by developing Accessory Dwelling Units, converting new construction units, potential applications by the Arlington Housing Authority and the Housing Corporation of Arlington.

### **2. Support Letter for Town Application to MassHousing for Planning Grant – Russell Common Lot Feasibility Study**

Ms. Suarez explained that the Department of Planning and Community Development was in the process of submitting a grant application to MassHousing to study the feasibility of redeveloping the Russell Common Municipal Lot with a mixed-use development that would include Affordable Housing. Ms. Suarez noted this parcel was identified in both the Master Plan and Housing Production Plan as a site to further explore. She requested a letter of support from the Affordable Housing Trust be included as part of the application packet. The Trustees briefly discussed and Mr. Helmuth made a motion to approve the Chair signing a letter of support. Ms. Pacejo seconded. Roll call vote (4-0) to approve.

### **3. Update on Funded Projects**

HCA: 10 Sunnyside Ave.

Mr. Mongold provided that Sunnyside design plans are moving forward and expect to potentially begin construction in early 2025. Ms. Suarez updated that the Sunnyside would be going back to the NSC Consortium to request additional HOME-ARP funding in the beginning of September.

HCA: 40 Dorothy Rd.

Mr. Mongold and Ms. Suarez provided that the remaining issues with the helical piles were being corrected and expected to receive a Certificate of Occupancy shortly. Additionally, the Lottery process has begun for the ADU unit which will remain open for 60 days.

**4. Goal: Build the Financial Strength of the Trust**

Discussion between Trustees regarding future requests for funding including talking to State Representatives about future earmarks and looking into the next CPA application funding cycle.

Additional conversation related to preparing for Town Day. The Affordable Housing Trust will be hosting a table and provide materials related to the 5-year Action Plan

**5. Approval of minutes from July 25<sup>th</sup> meeting**

Roll call vote (4-0) to approve

**6. Public Comments (time permitting)**

Ms. Suarez welcomed Kerry Sheehan who had expressed interest in learning more about the Affordable Housing Trust. Ms. Sheehan introduced herself and stated she was happy to attend.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:00pm.