

## Minutes of the Ypsilanti Housing Commission

Tuesday, March 15, 2022 – 6:00 p.m.

Sauk Trail Pointe, 928 W. Michigan Ave

Meeting called to order at 6:06 pm by Commissioner Smith.

### ROLL CALL:

- Commissioner Brown Present
- Commissioner Palmer Present (by phone)
- Commissioner Simmons Present
- Commissioner Smith Present

### Others Present:

- Executive Director/CEO Z. Fosler
- FEP Director Mark Hammond
- Lisa League, KMG Prestige Regional Property Manager

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** M. Simmons asked if there were any changes to be made to the agenda. M. Simmons moved to approve the minutes as written, second by L. Brown Motion passed 4-0

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** M. Simmons asked if there were any changes to be made to the meeting minutes of Feb 9th, 2022. M. Simmons moved to approve the minutes as written, second by L. Brown Motion passed 4-0

### AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

Lesha Tanimowo, a resident, is concerned that the handicap accessible ramp between the Sauk Trail Pointe main office and the parking lot is not easily accessible. L. Tanimowo mentioned pooling water on her residential sidewalk, which freezes during the winter months, making her uncomfortable leaving her residence due to safety concerns whenever heavy rain or ice occurs. Z. Fosler will speak with property management regarding drainage and ensure the problem is remedied. L. Tanimowo commented on how snow removal is not taking place until later in the day, which prevents her from attending her morning appointments. L. Tanimowo mentions that the snow plow piles snow over the handicap-accessible parking spaces. Z. Fosler stated he would look into solutions to address access to handicap-accessible spaces. L. Tanimowo states she is dissatisfied with landscaping as leaves and debris are not collected after servicing, and that landscaping has cut her garden and her plants in the past. Z. Fosler stated that the current staff shortage has impacted landscaping and that he is currently working with SummerWorks to help meet some of the open landscaping and maintenance needs. He also expressed disappointment with the current landscaping contractor and expects a different company to be used this year. L. Tanimowo expressed that she wishes to be able to make future rent payments electronically. Z. Fosler stated that he would look further into being able to pay rent electronically. He also offered that most banks now provide the option to pay bills electronically for free and that FEP could assist with setting it up, if needed.

Aline Johnson, a resident, voiced her concern regarding an ongoing mice issue in her residence and some of the surrounding homes. Z. Fosler will follow up with property management about what pest control measures are being taken and whether there is an issue with the building's foundation.

Yvette Pruitt, FEP resident coordinator at Deborah Strong Housing, stated that she is starting resident connection meetings, providing space for residents to voice their concerns. Y. Pruitt expressed concerns around resident transportation and their abilities to attend the meetings. Z. Fosler stated that the YHC is currently working with the FEP on a strategy to address resident transportation needs.

Christa Hughbanks, FEP mental health coordinator at New Parkridge, questioned if there was a way to expand the current job responsibilities of Great Lakes Security from vehicle patrols to regularly conducting foot patrols. Z. Fosler stated that

## Minutes of the Ypsilanti Housing Commission

Tuesday, March 15, 2022 – 6:00 p.m.

Sauk Trail Pointe, 928 W. Michigan Ave

having security conduct regular foot patrols is outside the budget. C. Hughbanks expressed interest in establishing communications between FEP and GLS to build awareness of what is going on in the community.

**CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS' COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS:** No council members present.

### MONTHLY REPORTS:

- **FEP Update from Director Mark Hammond:**

**Food Operations:** The Family Empowerment Program continues to distribute food at its three primary pantries: Sauk Trail Pointe, Hollow Creek, and Towner. These pantries were hosted twice a month for the first half of the year and once a month for the second half of the year when pantry usage declined. In early 2022, pantry usage has gone up and if this uptick is sustained, the program will again move to twice a month.

**Recent & ongoing activities:**

NAMI's Mental Health 101, Friday March 11, 2022: Presented overview of mental health, signs and symptoms of common mental illnesses, and how to best support friends and family.

Community Immunity Conversations, hosted throughout early March-Partnership with the University of Michigan's Program for Multicultural Health, IHA, St. Joseph Mercy, and the Hope Clinic- Medical professionals of color came to Hamilton Crossing, Parkridge, and Sauk Trail Pointe community centers to answer questions about the pandemic and vaccinations, debunk misinformation and conspiracy theories, and willing participants were able to get vaccinated/boosted.

Tutoring continues to be ongoing at Sauk Trail Pointe and Hamilton Crossing. GED classes continue to be held at New Parkridge. GDI Transportation continues to provide rides for residents M-F, 9-5pm. Average rides per month: 90.

FEP Resident Service Coordinators (RSC) have submitted over \$100,000.00 in Covid Emergency Rental Assistance (CERA) applications since opening around April 2021.

**Upcoming:**

MI Works will be coming out to all FEP sites with community centers either biweekly or monthly. Each site will have tailored services available, at the discretion of the RSC.

Computer classes will be held at every major site, will last about an hour and at the end participants will receive a Chromebook and charger for free.

Mental Health and Wellness Event – All Sites, Christa Hughbanks is bringing together a plethora of service providers and resources to connect residents to Washtenaw County's mental health infrastructure and increase awareness while reducing stigma

Spring Fling event for all sites at Parkridge Park, date TBD.

## Minutes of the Ypsilanti Housing Commission

Tuesday, March 15, 2022 – 6:00 p.m.

Sauk Trail Pointe, 928 W. Michigan Ave

### **Funding:**

Recently closed out 3-year grant with Michigan Medicine which was the primary funder for New Parkridge. The final report was submitted February 2022. FEP, with assistance from YHC Director and EMU Engage Director obtained funding from the County via the Washtenaw Mental Health Millage. The Millage Advisory Council voted unanimously to approve the FEP for 3 years of funding at just over \$69,000.00/year, which will replace Michigan Medicine funding

There are three major funding opportunities coming online now and in the near future: Community Priority Fund Application, via Washtenaw County, part of the American Rescue Plan, New Human Services Partnership, via Washtenaw County and revision of Coordinated funding-Community Impact Fund, via United Way

### **Barrier Buster:**

\$11,700+ in funds were primarily obtained through the CARES Act. Community Service Block Grant funding (CSBG) disbursed by the Office for Community and Economic Development through their “Barrier Busters” platform.

- **Regulatory, Oversight, and Legal Actions:** None.
- **RAD:** None
- **Financial Reports:** Z. Fosler stated that there is a cash shortage at (Deborah Strong Housing) resulting from resident recertifications not being submitted timely. Z. Fosler explained this is due to the ongoing staffing issue faced by property management. The cash shortage will be resolved when residential recertifications are submitted, which will allow for the subsidies to be released. L. League stated that many resumes have been received and that more managers should be hired soon. M. Simmons expressed concern with how lengthy the financial reports are and asked whether they can be further summarized. Z. Fosler also stated that he would bring a consolidated version of the monthly financial reports moving forward.
- **Development Update:** Z. Fosler stated there are no updates and wants to prioritize current issues in the YHC properties before developing additional sites.
- **Facility and Security Update:** Z. Fosler stated that he has continued to meet with the violence intervention group. M. Simmons would like more information on the group. Z. Fosler stated he would reach out to various members and discuss them speaking at a future board meeting.

**DIRECTOR’S REPORT:** Z. Fosler stated that he has successfully hired Deandre Webster as the Communications & Executive Assistant. Z. Fosler explained that Deandre was absent because he had to attend a night class that was a part of his Master of Public Administration program, but that we can expect him to join the board meeting in May.

**M. Simmons** motioned to move the YHC board meetings from every second Wednesday to every second Tuesday of each month, for the remainder of 2022, second by **L. Brown. Motion passed 4-0.**

**Minutes of the Ypsilanti Housing Commission**

**Tuesday, March 15, 2022 – 6:00 p.m.**

Sauk Trail Pointe, 928 W. Michigan Ave

**COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:**

- **Commissioner Palmer: None**
- **Commissioner Simmons: None**
- **Commissioner Brown:** Expressed concern that as it starts to warm up outside there will be an increase in traffic, loud noises, and parties in front of residencies. L. Brown stated that she wants to Great Lakes Security to be aware of the current issues. L. Brown expressed concern over the maintenance staffing shortage. Z. Fosler stated that maintenance jobs have been posted and that a sign-on bonus has been added to the posting. L. Brown stated she recently attended the National Youth at Risk Conference and learned various strategies to interact with at-risk youth. L. Brown stated she would provide a summary of key strategies and methods discussed at the conference.
- **Commissioner Smith:** Stated that she was glad that residents came to the board meeting and expressed their concerns, also happy that management was present to respond directly to the concerns.

**ADJOURN:** M. Simmons moved to adjourn, second by L. Brown. **Passed 4-0. Meeting adjourned at 7:29pm.**

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:**

The Ypsilanti Housing Commission and its Board of Commissioners, of the City of Ypsilanti, Michigan, hereby authorize the Executive Director to sign the approved Board of Commissioners minutes of March 15, 2022.

	YEAS	NAYS	ABSENT
Commissioner Brown	_____	_____	_____
Commissioner Palmer	_____	_____	_____
Commissioner Simmons	_____	_____	_____
Commissioner Smith	_____	_____	_____

\_\_\_\_\_  
Zachary D. Fosler, Executive Director & CEO