

**Redevelopment Authority of the City of Allentown**  
**Monthly Meeting Minutes**  
**February 10, 2021**  
**2:00 PM**

The following are meeting minutes of the Redevelopment Authority of the City of Allentown pertaining to the meeting held on Wednesday, February 10th, 2021 at 2:00 p.m. Via Teams Virtual Meeting.

**Board in attendance:**

Chair - Rebecca Williams  
Vice Chair – Daniel Schmidt  
Secretary – Constance Cowen  
Tyrone Russell – Member

**Staff in Attendance**

Leonard Lightner  
Kelly McElroy  
Megan Hart  
Joshua Gildea, Solicitor

**Public in attendance:**

Enid Santiago, SELF!  
Brenda Fernandez, SELF!

**Determination of a Quorum**

Rebecca Williams determined a quorum was in place and called the meeting to order at 2:03pm.

**Approval of the Meeting Minutes**

Connie Cowen requested a motion to approve the minutes of January 13, 2021 and January 26, 2021 Tyrone Russell seconded and all in favor.

**New Business**

Kelly McElroy introduced the new solicitor for the Redevelopment Authority, Joshua Gildea. Joshua Gildea is a partner of Fitzpatrick, Lentz & Bubba, his firm is involved in the declaration of taking and eminent domain process for the Redevelopment Authority. Joshua Gildea noted his firm does other work for the city including lawsuits and developer projects.

Kelly McElroy presented the draft budget for review and explained the line items to the Board. Tyrone Russell suggested the Redevelopment Authority should budget a slightly higher amount for advertising. Rebecca Williams requested the revisions be made and will be reviewed again during March's meeting.

Kelly McElroy introduced Enid Santiago from a local non profit SELF! and Enid Santiago in turn introduced Brenda Fernandez, the founder of SELF!. Brenda Fernandez explained SELF! LV is a women's program that provides the resources for women's re entry into the community after incarceration including housing, job readiness training, peer support, mentoring, basic computer training and life coaching.

Enid Santiago said SELF! is seeking a partnership to house about 8-10 women returning to the community from prison and also provide emergency shelter for domestic violence survivors who do not have dependents. Enid Santiago stated 318 N. 13<sup>th</sup> Street may work for their needs. Enid Santiago said SELF! is a newer non profit, 501C3 funded thru grants to cover overhead expenses in addition to community donations and SELF-Pride Janitorial Services serving as a funding source. Rebecca Williams asked what SELF!'s success rate is, Brenda Fernandez stated the success rate is 100%, none of the women thru the program so far have been reincarcerated, all the women are employed and are in their own apartments. SELF! would like to rent the building and eventually buy it. Dan Schmidt asked where the rent for their current space comes from, Enid Santiago answered either grants, community funding and SELF-Pride Janitorial Services. Tyrone Russell asked why this space would work for them and what are they looking for out of the partnership? Enid Santiago said the size of 13<sup>th</sup> Street would allow them the space, it's in a convenient location to bus stops and partnering would allow them to open the doors to shelter women. Kelly McElroy stated Enid Santiago's proposal was to introduce SELF! and explain what they do and explain the need for them in the community.

Kelly McElroy gave project updates on the following:

318 N 13<sup>th</sup> St – rehab in progress

532 W. Allen St – the clean out and stabilization is underway

326 N 9<sup>th</sup> St - front façade is being worked on, framing inspection passed

515 N. New St – letters to purchase were previously sent to the owner but he listed the property for sale in the open market. We submitted our highest and best offer of \$155,000 contingent upon the roof being replaced which was accepted. We will combine this with our 2 lots already in our inventory and make 4 income restricted apartments, possible call N. New St Apartments.

Kelly McElroy asked Dan Schmidt if he had any information regarding investments for the Redevelopment Authority, he said it would be best to obtain 3 proposals. Rebecca Williams requested the Authority's staff to prepare a request for proposal regarding investments for comparison.

## **Public Comment**

**None**

## **Meeting Adjourned**

**3:09**