



SCIT HOUSING

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes 3/11/2020

Members Present:

Dani Sineway
Zach Gauger
Fanella Poola
Vickie Camp

Staff Present:

Rosalie Maloney, Housing Manager
Andrew Wagner, Administrative Assistant

Members Absent:

Dayna Johansen, Chairperson

Called to order: at 5:33pm by Dani Sineway, Vice-Chairperson

Roll Call:

Moment of silence:

Agenda:

On a motion duly made by Dani Sineway, seconded by Fanella Poola it was moved to approve the agenda with the addition of the coronavirus information.4 for, motion carried.

Approval of Minutes:

On a motion duly made by Zach Gauger seconded by Fanella Poola it was moved to approve the minutes dated February 12, 2020.4 for, motion carried.

Old Business

A. **Pet Policy:**

- 1) A tenant submitted a statement to DS regarding an additional pet. The policy only allows for one. Tenant with 2 dogs would like reassurance this won't become a problem for her continued tenancy.
- 2) The Housing Manager did give permission to this tenant to have an extra pet that is slightly above the recommended size for pets. The tenant's unit is in an area that is more spacious and more secluded from close neighbors and therefore less likely to be a disturbance to others. The pet policy created many years ago needs to be updated. The Manager did meet with the tenant and the dog. The dog is not one of the prohibited breeds and it was calm and sociable during the visit.
- 3) DS asked if "service animals" are addressed in the policy. The Manager said Housing doesn't require "proof" the pet is a certified and specially trained service animal. People find ways to get around the rules and practically any doctor will provide a note stating the animal is necessary for the client's mental health. So we won't be able to enforce the restriction. However before pets are approved we check the breed. Tribal Ordinance, Title VII Animal and Rabies Control, prohibits certain breeds.

- 4) ZG suggested we update the pet policy: change the one pet restriction and allow tenants an additional pet, change height restriction to increase it a little, and require tenants to provide contact information for a responsible person to take the pet in the event the tenant becomes absent.
- 5) The Manager reminded the AC the pet policy is an addendum to the Admissions Policy. The Legal department must review any changes to a Council approved policy. Legal Review **will not** review and update sections of a policy. Since the Admission Policy needs a lot of updating Housing is to submit the entire edited document as a “whole” for Legal Review. It’s been difficult to find the time during the course of normal business operations to do the needed edits. Housing staff is busy with the normal work load and haven’t been able to get all the edits for **Admissions** done. Housing will continue to work on it.

B. Community Activities:

- 1) Housing has financially supported many community activities in the past: Summer Reading Program, back to school event, Labor Day picnic, Trunk or Treat, and Powwows.
- 2) Housing is allowed to use grant funds if the tenants are invited and attend the Tribal events. It is difficult to prove the tenants are actually attending these events. Other departments didn’t provide Housing copies of their sign in sheets.
- 3) So far in 2020, in addition to the recurring events, there have been several new requests for funding.
- 4) Housing wants ideas from the AC on what events they would like to see sponsored or developed for 2020 that will benefit the tenants as well as the tribal community.

New Business

A. Healthy Food – Farmer’s Market:

- 1) Housing was asked to partner with Andahwod’s Sam Anglin and Sally Van Cise from Nimkee to increase tenant traffic at the farmer’s market. Housing was hoping to offer tenants food vouchers to be used at the market. We aren’t sure how to structure the program. Tenants would have to do some type of activity to earn the vouchers. The market vendors would turn the vouchers into the Housing department who would then send vendors a check.
- 2) ZG tenants could earn vouchers by attending tribal events such as those offered by the 7th Generation Program.
- 3) DS, 7th Gen offers the sacred fire lunches during the week and tenants could participate in the community garden and harvest fresh vegetables at 7th Gen.
- 4) DS, it would be nice if tenants could earn vouchers for service projects such as assisting elders in some way.
- 5) RM, those are all great ideas and it sounds like the project would need a coordinator to get it going and to keep track of activities. Housing lacks the staff to do all this right now. This will take some more thought. Maybe we can work with HR to get help.

B. Spring Clean-Up 2020

- 1) The 2019 spring clean-up held on Saturday May 18 was a huge success. This date was the same day designated for the Isabella County household hazardous waste collection. In the Tribal school parking lot Housing had four large garbage dumpsters set up and those were filled to capacity. Housing had arranged for temp workers and community service volunteers to help people unload. Tribal PD was available to collect and dispose of unwanted and unused drugs. Housing is asking for AC’s support before we run this event again.

- 2) ZG likes the event and would like to see it again. DS supports the event she said CMU does this too and offers a “re-purpose” area. They have pallets with small appliances and other items that are still in good condition and working. Many students leaving campus just can’t take it all with them as they travel. These items are offered to others for free instead of being thrown into a land fill.
- 3) Housing will get quotes, and find out the date for Isabella County’s HHW collection, and report back to the AC for additional planning.

C. Spring Newsletter

- 1) AW: Every quarter the department sends tenants a newsletter full of events, reminders, and information about the department. Are there any articles or information the AC would like to see in these newsletters?
- 2) DS, when will the bathrooms at Broadway Park be open again?
- 3) RM, when IHS replaced the water line last summer the pipe supplying that building was disabled. A new water line has to be installed. Since spring is coming I will ask Don Seal in Planning when they plan to start this work and report back.
- 4) DS, the AC will review Andrew’s draft newsletter and provide their ideas at the next meeting.

D. Garage Sale 2020

- 1) Housing should have a “dispossession policy” in place but that too needs to be developed and approved. There are times tenants leave behind sofas, beds, toys, and useful household items. HUD expects housing programs to re-sell these items and apply those funds to the tenant account (if they owe money). Selling items through an annual garage sale is one way to do it. If they don’t owe on their account the proceeds of the sale becomes “program income” and the funds go back into the program. Currently we are working on a lost and found policy too so we have a way to dispose of items found in the parks and other public spaces. If these items are not claimed they too go into the annual garage sale.
- 2) DS: suggests Housing take pictures of the sale items and create a brochure. The brochure can be sent to tenants so they know what is for sale and the tenants can have early admission to the sale. The tenants can earn Farmer’s Market vouchers by helping to set up the sale.
- 3) ZG: asks if the items currently stored in 5-plex sheds were disposed of in this way... would current tenants be able to use those storage sheds?
- 4) Housing will start writing the policy and bring it back to the AC for review and input.

Announcements:

- 1) Due to the coronavirus pandemic, the Tribe is taking precautions to ensure the safety and wellbeing of staff and tenants. Informational brochures sent out by Nimkee Clinic were reviewed. AC wants the “Flu & You” brochure mailed to the tenants as it has useful and practical advice.
- 2) The big difference between the coronavirus and the flu is shortness of breath.
- 3) Staff has been told to monitor their daily health. Check your temperature – 99 degrees is a low grade fever and 104 is the danger zone. If you have a fever, cough, or sore throat don’t go into work.
- 4) If an employee is having symptoms they should not return to work for 24 hours after being symptom free.
- 5) ZG, the use of air purifiers is also a good way to clean the air.
- 6) DS, Housing should encourage tenants to let maintenance staff know if anyone in the unit is sick.

- 7) RM, routine maintenance tasks will likely be postponed. Maintenance will still respond to tenant requests for things that affect health and safety. Dani suggests staff ask if anyone in the house is sick before entering.

Next Meeting date:

- April 8th, 2020 at 5:15 pm.

Motion to Adjourn:

On a motion duly made by Zach Gauger seconded by Fanella Poola, it was moved to adjourn. 4for, motion carried.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:46 PM