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Rubble could be gone by March

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MUNSYANA: Permits and utility relocations have delayed the demolition

MUNCIE -- The piles of rubble from a portion of Munsyana Homes might be cleaned up next month. And the Muncie Housing Authority could get its first look next week at architect plans to build 30 new single family and duplex homes called Millennium Place.

'I still have not seen a construction schedule,' MHA Board Chairman Jerome Williams said recently. Demolition crews were delayed last month because of permits and utility relocations, according to MHA Director Charles Weatherly. 'Our timetable has been pushed back,' he said. The MHA still does not have design and construction drawings for the new housing. Weatherly said construction could be pushed back later this year. 'I don't know that is the case,' Williams said.

During an MHA board meeting this week, Williams asked that architects and private developers give the board an update at a special meeting next week. Last year, the board agreed to let a limited partnership created by Indianapolis developers F&C Real Estate Services build the 30-unit development. The \$2.5-million project will be paid by a mix of federal housing modernization funds, state tax credits and other funds from private developers.

Only 108 of the 279 Munsyana apartments, generally on the east side of Madison Street, have been torn down. The MHA has lost two chances at a federal HOPE VI grant to demolish the entire complex and replace it. The MHA also invited public housing residents to a meeting this week to talk about services and programs they wanted. Munsyana resident La- Shonda Jernigan said residents could not even get pizza deliveries. 'I want a more positive atmosphere,' Jernigan said. 'I just don't mean I want some great buildings up here.'

Williams said the MHA would try to get more business to locate in the neighborhood. There's no grocery, laundry or other service businesses anywhere in the neighborhood, MHA board member Lillian Dunn said.

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