

**MINUTES OF THE HOUSTON HOUSING AUTHORITY
SPECIAL BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING**

Tuesday, January 5, 2021

A Special Meeting of the Board of Commissioners (“Board”) of the Houston Housing Authority (“HHA”) was held on Tuesday, January 5, 2021, via telephone conference pursuant to the March 16, 2020 Notice issued by the Office of the Texas Attorney General and in accordance with the applicable portions of the Texas Open Meetings Act. The U.S. toll-free number was 1-888-475-4499, the local number was 1-346-248-7799 and the meeting identification number was 836 1111 5585.

Chair Snowden called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. Secretary Thiele called the roll and declared a quorum present. Chair Snowden offered the use of an interpreter, who has been instructed to be on teleconference as well and will be available to Spanish speakers who may need assistance for public comments only. Olga Infante was asked to introduce herself in Spanish and let the attendees know of her service.

Present: LaRence Snowden, Chair
 Kristy Kirkendoll, Vice Chair
 Stephanie A.G. Ballard, Commissioner
 Andrea Hilliard Cooksey, Commissioner
 Dr. Max A. Miller, Jr., Commissioner
 Mark Thiele, Secretary
 Kris Thomas, Commissioner

ABSENT: Guillermo “Will” Hernandez, Commissioner

Secretary Thiele called the roll and declared a quorum present.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chair Snowden inquired about public comments. Secretary Thiele addressed the inquiry to the HHA attorney, Mr. Keland Lewis. Mr. Lewis said State Law does require that we allow public comments to any individuals that would like to speak regarding any of the items on the agenda listed today.

Chair Snowden stated if an individual would like to make public comments at this time to press *9 to raise your hand for your question or comment. Speakers will be allowed three (3) minutes for public comments. Speakers will only be allowed to speak once. I will inform you when your three minutes have expired. The Board will generally not provide responses to the comments or answer any questions. However, HHA residents making comments are encouraged to clearly state their name and the property where you reside. We will have someone from the property management team or from our staff, to reach out to you directly regarding any issue or concern you may have

Nakia Sims began by saying: Happy New Year. I am a resident of Historic Oak of Allen Parkway Village. I am glad we get to have public comments today about the five-year plan as well as the MTW. The important piece that I would like to talk about in the five-year plan is the transparency and the strengthening partnership language.

One of the biggest assets and the biggest partners that is often underutilized are the people who actually receive the services. It is the residents. It is the residents that there is the reason there is even a Board. It is the residents and those like my children who are waiting on the public housing waitlist due to clerical error ended up living in uninhabitable conditions in a home that did not have plumbing. I am not a stereotype. Had a mom who started reading and playing mandarin tapes when they were in the womb. Even though we can have all of those ambitions for our children, however there is still systemic racism under color of law and the history of discrimination within housing which I hope that we will work with the residents in partnership to address as well as to cure.

Even if residents are moved to high mobility areas, if you are not speaking to people with lived experiences, then you will have the illusion and not understand how when there is a minority student that there are implicit biases. That there is a necessity for support systems for those students where they are not only academically successful but as well as for their mental health issues created by living under the color of law.

I hope the five-year plan we have responded as residents. We have attended the meetings. Unfortunately, some of the comments that we suggested, the questions that we posed before the deadline, to fully be able to comment with all of the information in a timely manner, we did not receive feedback on questions. Me specifically, I did not receive feedback on a plethora of questions that I posed so I could as a resident, as a leader, within the residence, fully understand where we are headed within Historic Oaks of Allen Parkway Village.

\$1 million worth of improvements?? I have responded to the Board members especially those of you that are supposed to represent us residents. My children are living in conditions where there is mold, where there are repairs not being made even though they were reported at the meetings, the repairs are being made within one or two days. I have had to pay self-help and put something up to cover up a vent where it looks like there is black mold. My daughter has been hospitalized.

So, I hope the five-year plan and choice mobility, the health of residents are truly considered and as residents not as problems but offer solutions. That we are heard and that there are expanded opportunities for residents like myself as well as other residents and we will continue to work with the City of Houston, Harris County Housing and Community Development so that there will truly be choices transparencies within the five-year plan and that there will be expanded opportunities for those served by the HHA

Secretary Thiele thanked Ms. Sims. It was determined that Chair Snowden was inadvertently disconnected from the call.

Ms. Dixon stated Chair Snowden was having difficulties calling back in.

Chair Snowden commented to Ms. Sims. I missed the end of your comments. I would like to reach out to you directly regarding some of the statements that have been made, not just from this meeting but from some of our previous meetings as well.

Chair Snowden asked Secretary Thiele to get Ms. Sims' contact information to him after the meeting.

Chair Snowden asked if there are any individuals that would like to make public comments at this time. Having none, we move on to our new business.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution No. 3233 – Consideration to authorize the Interim President & CEO to submit the Moving to Work Plan and Application including required Certifications of Compliance to the US Department of Housing and Urban Development

Secretary Thiele stated Resolution No. 3233 states That the Houston Housing Authority Board of Commissioners: 1) Adopts and approves the Moving to Work (MTW) Plan and Application, including the MTW Certifications of Compliance with HUD and Federal Requirements and Regulations; 2) Confirms that the MTW Plan and Application incorporates the selection of an alternative income-based, tiered rent policy; 3) Confirms that the public process requirements as defined in HUD PIH Notice 2020-21 were met in the development of the MTW Plan and Application; and, 4) authorizes the Interim President & CEO to submit the MTW Plan and Application and all other required documentation to the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and to make necessary changes any technical corrections, pursuant to the memorandum dated December 28, 2020 from Jonathan Zimmerman, Policy Advisor to Mark Thiele, Interim President & CEO. Accordingly, staff recommends the Board adopt this resolution.

Chair Snowden stated the Board has heard the resolution and asked for a motion to adopt Resolution No. 3233.

Commissioner Thomas moved to approve Resolution No. 3233. Commissioner Ballard seconded the motion.

Chair Snowden asked if there is any discussion or objection to approve Resolution No. 3233. Having none, Resolution No. 3233 is adopted.

Chair Snowden stated we will now move to Resolution No. 3234.

Resolution No. 3234 – Consideration to authorize the Interim President & CEO to submit the 2021 PHA Annual Plan (“Annual Plan”) to the US Department of Housing and Urban Development

Secretary Thiele stated Resolution No. 3234 states that the Houston Housing Authority Board of Commissioners authorizes the Interim President & CEO to submit to HUD the HHA Annual Plan for the calendar year 2021, with all attached certifications, HUD forms, all necessary attachments and other documentation required for the receipt of capital funds program funds, and to make any technical corrections, and to make the following 20 certifications as indicated in your documentation. And, Finally, the PHA certifies that it is in compliance with all applicable federal statutory and regulatory requirements that is pursuant to the memorandum dated December 28, 2020 from Jonathan Zimmerman, Policy Advisor to Mark Thiele, Interim President & CEO. Accordingly, staff recommends the Board adopt this resolution.

Chair Snowden stated the Board has heard the resolution and asked for a motion to adopt Resolution No. 3244.

Commissioner Ballard moved to approve Resolution No. 3234. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion.

Chair Snowden asked if there is any discussion or objection to approve Resolution No. 3234. Having none, Resolution No. 3244 is adopted.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chair Snowden stated we do not have any items to discuss in the Executive Session that requires our attention. We will be joining again Tuesday, January 26, 2021 for our regularly scheduled Board of Commissioners meeting and am sure we can take care of business during that meeting.

Chair Snowden asked Secretary Thiele if that is accurate. Secretary Thiele responded it is up to your discretion but we have nothing to discuss.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Snowden remarked this concludes the items on today's agenda. This meeting was called purposely for these two items that needed consideration before we are able to submit and be in compliance with the US Department of HUD. I would like to share with you to please be prepared to join us for the regular January meeting. I look forward to new items on the agenda. We will probably have a Development Committee meeting in the interim also a Search Committee meeting and possibly even a Finance Committee meeting in the interim. Commissioners, you will be getting notices about those.

Other than that, I do not see any other items or discussion points. To the Commissioners, especially, thank you for your time. We are looking forward to a productive year. Exciting things that are before us and we will discuss with you in detail at the January 26 meeting to give you a close-out of all of the activities that occurred in 2020. There are some great successes that we have had. We still have some activities and maybe some trials that are before us but I must say that we are on a good path going forward.

Chair Snowden asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Commissioner Thomas moved to adjourn. Commissioner Ballard seconded. The meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m.