

THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE HOUSING AUTHORITY
OF THE CITY OF NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND
HELD ON THE TENTH DAY OF APRIL, 2008

The Commissioners of the Housing Authority of the City of Newport, Rhode Island met in regular session at the Park Holm Senior Center Newport, Rhode Island at 4:30 p.m. on April 10, 2008.

Roll call followed the Pledge of Allegiance:

PRESENT:	Chairperson	Jan Shapin
	Vice Chair	Rodney Bowley
		John Crowley, Jr.
	"	Frank Coleman
	"	Cheryl Abney
	"	Frank McCauley
	"	Constance Vergowven

ABSENT: Attorney Joseph J. Nicholson, Jr.

The meeting began with the Secretary calling a moment of reflection for Jade Hall.

Commissioner Bowley requested that a correction be made to the March 13, 2008 meeting minutes. The correction relates to page two in regards to the continuation of the Boys & Girls Club discussion in the absence of Ms. Hoops. Second paragraph states a motion accepting to continue the discussions until the next Board meeting. The motion should have read the item was to pass off the Agenda.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Crowley seconded by Commissioner Bowley, and unanimously carried the minutes of the regular monthly meeting held on March 13, 2008 were approved.

The monthly bills report was presented to the Commissioners.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Crowley, seconded by Commissioner Bowley, and unanimously carried, payment of the bills was approved.

C.O.P. Report was presented to the Commissioners. Officer Piermont reported to the Commissioners that a six month drug investigation resulted in the arrests of two residents of Park Holm and one previous resident.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Crowley, seconded by Commissioner Coleman, and unanimously carried, all correspondence was accepted.

The Secretary submitted to the Commissioners the Consent Calendar items which included the Occupancy Reports, Applications, and March Collection Loss Reports.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Crowley, seconded by Commissioner Abney, and unanimously carried, the Consent Calendar items were approved.

The Secretary requested approval for the language correction in the A.C.O.P policy. The correction reflects Page 27; Section C7.1; Item 2a will now read: "a residency preference which gives preference for admission to person/persons who LIVE or WORK IN NEWPORT".

Upon a motion by Commissioner Crowley, seconded by Commissioner Vergowven, and unanimously carried, to accept the language correction as read.

The Secretary requested the approval of Resolution 1033 recognizing Jade Hall's appointment to the Board of Commissioners of the Housing Authority of the City of Newport as well as all her efforts and guidance in developing programs which benefit the residents.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Bowley, seconded by Commissioner Crowley and unanimously carried, to accept Resolution 1033 as read.

The Secretary requested input from the Board requesting the renaming of two existing streets during the Phase IV project. The two streets are Hobbs Street and Winslow Street. A suggestion was made by Commissioner Bowley to consider naming these streets after 1) Sgt. Greene, the first Newport resident who died in Vietnam and 2) Sgt. Weidemann, the first Newport resident who died in Iraq. This decision will need to be made rather quickly as the utility company requests the streets have names vs. building numbers.

Yvette Harris suggested to the Commissioners a street in the HOPE VI development be named after Jade Hall as she contributed so much to this project. The Commission received the suggestion and will consider it when the new streets are planned in Phase V.

The Secretary agreed that there should be some kind of dedication for Jade either by the naming of a street in the HOPE VI development or the naming of a room in the Florence Gray Center after Jade. This discussion will continue at a future meeting and a decision will be made as to what the dedication will be 1). the street named after Jade or 2). a room at the Florence Gray Center.

An amendment was approved to change Park Side Circle to Veterans Circle.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Bowley, seconded by Commissioner Crowley, and unanimously carried, to accept the request as read.

The Secretary provided the Commissioners with copies of the monthly Finance reports.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Crowley, seconded by Commissioner Coleman, and unanimously carried, to accept the reports as read.

The Secretary presented to the Commissioners the monthly Maintenance Report.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Crowley, seconded by Commissioner Coleman, and unanimously carried, to accept the reports as read.

The HOPE VI Director provided the Commissioners with copies of the monthly reports. The closing for Phase IV home ownership and rental units is being finalized. The report reflects the recommendation from the development committee that FJS Associates is hired as the development consultant for work in regards to the HUD 811 and the HUD 202 grant opportunities.

A motion was made by Commissioner Crowley, seconded by Commissioner Bowley, and unanimously carried accepting the reports as read by the HOPE VI Director.

The Secretary explained that HUD has not sent out any notification in regards to funding at this time. We are expecting this notification within the next week or so. HUD allows a short period of time to complete these applications. FJS Associates is helping through the initial stages including interviewing and hiring an architect to do early schematic drawings of the buildings on the Beacon Street lot. These buildings will replicate the building of Phase IV. There will be discussions between Newport Housing Authority and the Residents of Housing Authority of the City of Newport and Beacon Court to inform them about the developmental deal. Meetings have also taken place with the Maher Center resulting in an interest in being the service provider and having their clients there to receive supportive services and have their own apartment.

A resident of Beacon Court approached the Board regarding his concerns with what he is understanding are the upcoming changes to the North End in the HOPE VI project. This resident is concerned about this project as he feels these changes are not in “character” with the surrounding areas. He questioned the Board as to why another “center” will be located in this residential area as there are two other centers located nearby. This resident requested from the Board a better understanding of the project and of the intention of the Maher Center. The Beacon Court resident would like there to be a common ground between all parties.

The Secretary explained the Maher Center, as well as, the Newport Housing Authority are committed to bringing the staff and clients of the Maher Center together with the residents to be welcomed into the community. There will be opportunity to have discussions and to learn more about the Maher Center Program and how it reflects the HOPE VI plan. The proposed development will not be a center or group phone. It will be a 10 unit apartment community most likely in two structures that will blend into the surrounding neighborhood.

Chairperson Shapin requested that this discussion continue at a later time when the Architectural site plan has been completed and the Maher Center staff meets at a date to be determined. Chairperson Shapin assured the residents that everyone will have a clear understanding of these services and how it reflects the plan.

As further questions were raised from the residents in the audience, a lengthy discussion ensued by Chairperson Shapin explaining how this idea came to be.

Chairperson Shapin asked the HOPE VI Director about the report stating the homeownership units are scheduled to come on line first between the months of November 2008 through February 2009. Chairperson Shapin asked that the Board is kept informed of the progression of that timeline.

The Director of Social Services presented to the Commissioners her monthly report. The Social Services Director also announced to the Board that Joe Houlihan is now at Forest Farm Nursing Home. The Commissioners would like to have a fruit basket sent.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Bowley, seconded by Commissioner Crowley and unanimously carried, to accept the reports as read.

Commissioners’ Requests at this time are:

Commissioner Crowley commended the Authority staff on the smaller Board package and “saving all the trees”.

Commissioner Crowley would like to investigate the cost of beginning a recycling program at the Authority; the Commissioner feels this is beneficial for the future of the children and also it would be a good idea for everyone to learn about recycling.

The Secretary will check into a recycling program and report back to the Board.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Crowley, seconded by Commissioner Bowley and unanimously carried by all to go into Executive Session.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Crowley, seconded by Commissioner Bowley and unanimously carried the meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.