

**PROVIDENCE HOUSING AUTHORITY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING: Thursday, August 22, 2013; 5:30 p.m.**

Manton Heights

31 Salmon Street

Providence, RI 02909

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Nicolas Retsinas called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present:

Nicolas Retsinas
Thomas Ryan
Dolores Cascella
Roger Giraud
Ricardo Patino
JT Taylor

Absent:

Hilary Silver
John Iglizzi
Kevin Jackson
Nicholas Narducci
Dorothy Waters

Six members were present which did not constitute a quorum. Chairman Retsinas indicated that the meeting would continue for informational purpose only. Should an additional Commissioner arrive, any official votes could be taken at that time with the presence of a quorum.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There being no quorum, the approval of the minutes are postponed.

RESIDENT'S COMMENTS

None

Chairman's Report

None

INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Director stated that the first of four furlough days is Friday, August 23rd. The next furlough day will be in November, another in January 2014, and hopefully, the last one in May 2014.

Secondly, Director Tavares also stated that the negotiations with all four unions were successful in reaching agreements relating to the annual wage and health insurance reopeners. Upon mutual agreement, Union Carpenters were transferred from the PHA health plan to the Carpenters Health Insurance Plan. This action was mutually beneficial to the Carpenters and to the PHA.

Director Tavares was pleased to announce that the PHA received an award from NAHRO for our Smoke Free Documentary. We not only received a Merit Award and Regional Award of Excellence for this program, we received notification that we won the National Agency Award of Excellence for the documentary. This is the first time the PHA has won an award on a national level.

Chairman Retsinas praised the staff for the excellent work.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Budget and Finance: (Comm. Giraud)
- Resident Services: (Comm. Silver)
Commissioner Silver was not in attendance, but Director of Resident Services, Sorrel Devine, commented that the PHA received a grant of \$108,300 from the Eisenhower Foundation for the Youth Safe Haven program at Hartford Park.
- Capital Improvements: (Comm. Cascella)
- Executive Committee: (Chair Retsinas)

RESOLUTIONS:

None

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

In keeping with the monthly presentations, Director Tavares introduced Melissa Sanzaro, Director of Special Projects who gave a presentation on Choice Neighborhood Initiative (CNI). Melissa welcomed Barbara Fields, New England Regional Administrator of HUD, Frank Shea, Executive Director and Jennifer Hawkins, Associate Executive Director of Olneyville Housing Corporation (OHC), Amanda McMullen, Chief Strategy Officer of Meeting Street, and Nancy Howard, Senior Program Officer of Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC). Each of the principal partners known as the CNI Planning Team gave a brief summary of who they are and what their roles are in the CNI project. Also in attendance were residents who are members of the Manton Heights Planning Committee.

Commissioner Ryan questioned whether there will be a challenge in order to be awarded an implementation grant because of the reasonable condition that Manton Heights is in?

Melissa commented that PHA had to submit a physical needs assessment for Manton Heights in order to receive the Planning Grant. Manton passed the first step of being considered severely distressed based on the physical needs assessment and back-log of capital improvements.

Chairman Retsinas asked Barbara Field what she feels the outcome will be for projects like CNI with the Federal budget cuts. Barbara commented that the CNI project is a high priority for the Secretary of State and the Administration.

Commissioner Patino asked the board to move the time of the board meetings from 5:30 to 5:00 p.m. Chairman Retsinas stated that the board will review changing the time of the sub-committee and board of commissioner's meetings.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chairman Retsinas concluded the meeting.
The meeting adjourned at 6:22 p.m.

Minutes Submitted and Approved By:

Lisa Cancelliere
Recording Secretary

Paul Tavares
Interim Executive Director