

**PROVIDENCE HOUSING AUTHORITY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING: Thursday, October 24, 2013; 5:00 p.m.**

Rudolph Tavares Center 263 Chad Brown Street Providence, RI 02908

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Nicolas Retsinas called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present:

Nicolas Retsinas
Thomas Ryan
Dolores Cascella
John Iglizzi
Nicholas Narducci
Ricardo Patino
Hilary Silver
JT Taylor
Dorothy Waters
Roger Giraud*
Kevin Jackson*

Absent:

Nine members were present initially constituting a quorum to conduct business. *Commissioner Giraud arrived at 5:11 p. m. and Commissioner Jackson arrived at 5:41 p.m. thus bringing the attendance to eleven.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Commissioner Patino seconded by Commissioner Iglizzi to accept and approve the regular meeting minutes of 9/26/13. The minutes were approved with a unanimous voice vote.

RESIDENT'S COMMENTS

A tenant, Christina Tate, complained about rodents in the apartments. Director Tavares stated a meeting was held with a representative from the Resident Association Board from Chad Brown and Sunset Village, along with the head of security and maintenance to address the issues and concerns of the residents in these particular areas.

Chairman's Report

The Executive Committee met in its capacity as Search Committee to review the candidate's resumes and scheduled interviews. The Chairman invited all Board of Commissioners to sit in on the candidate's interviews October 28, 2013.

INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Tavares referred the commissioners to the MMR. He said that a meeting was held with Commissioner Narducci, Council President Solomon, Representatives of Chad Brown Alumni Association, and Nicole Dufresene of the Boys and Girls Club to discuss the request to host a youth basketball league at the Rudolph Tavares Center (RTC). The Director commented that it would be beneficial to the community and being under the umbrella of the Boys & Girls Club it would satisfy the PHA's concerns with safety, security and liability. He further thanked Commissioner Narducci for calling the meeting at City Hall.

Commissioner Narducci thanked the Chad Brown Alumni who volunteer at the RTC with the youth and helping to keep them off the streets and out of trouble.

Chairman Retsinas acknowledged Commissioner Narducci for his involvement and also thanked the Chad Brown Alumni for their volunteer work in the community and with the youth.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Budget and Finance: (Comm. Giraud)
- Resident Services: (Comm. Silver)
- Capital Improvements: (Comm. Cascella)
- Executive Committee: (Chair Retsinas)

Commissioner Iglizzi asked for a status of the Carroll Towers elevator system. Director Tavares stated that the maintenance work for the existing elevators will cost in excess of \$200,000.00 that would come out of our capital funds program. Secondly, to answer the commissioner's previous question regarding adding an additional elevator, the Director stated that it is not feasible to add a third elevator. However, we are committed to improving the existing elevators.

Commissioner Iglizzi also questioned whether the residents had more activities scheduled and if we could do a survey of the tenants to see what they would enjoy doing for activities. Director Tavares stated that he had sent the commissioners a list of previous activities and bus trips the residents at Carroll Tower had been on. He noted that unfortunately many residents did not take the opportunity to attend the activities. We are attempting to engage more tenants in the resident association to be aware of opportunities for them. Sorrell Devine, Director of Resident Services, commented that the residents are surveyed, however, transportation is an issue. Commissioner Iglizzi questioned whether we could hire private bussing, get a grant or set money aside in the budget to purchase a bus. The Director stated that resident services is 99% funded by grants, if we could get a grant for transportation we would, however, grants are being reduced. The PHA purchasing a bus at this time would not be prudent. The Chairman asked Sorrell to look into grants and to contact RIPTA and Commissioner Narducci to contact First Student Bus for possible resolutions.

RESOLUTIONS:

None

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

In keeping with the monthly presentations, Chairman Retsinas introduced Sorrell Devine, Director of Resident Services. Sorrell introduced Michael Scarpetti and Ebony Brown of the Providence Boys and Girls Club of RI.

Councilman Narducci raised his concerns of the number of kids not attending the Boys and Girls Club and being 'left behind', also to extend the hours at the club. There are approximately 1500 children ages 6-12 that live in Hartford, Chad Brown and Manton areas, yet there are only approximately 367 attendees. Michael stated that because of budget cuts, staff were cut back making it difficult to manage more kids and longer hours. Commissioners Taylor and Waters voiced their concerns that all the kids at Hartford should be allowed to use the water park and not just the members. Commissioner Jackson noted that the people who are hired at the water parks are not required to be CPR or First Aide Certified. Chairman Retsinas asked Sorrell to look into the concerns that the commissioners have.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There being no further business, Chairman Retsinas asked Director Tavares to read the motion to go into Executive Session. With a motion by Commissioner Narducci and a second by Commissioner Cascella, a roll call vote produced a unanimous vote to go into executive session pursuant to R.I.G.L. 42-46-5(a)(2) to continue discussions of pending litigation; and pursuant to R.I.G.L. 42-46-5 (a) (1) to discuss job performance and employment contract for Interim Executive Director. Said executive session commenced at 6:10 p.m.

At 6 :30 p.m. the Commissioners returned to open session. A motion was made by Commissioner Narducci, seconded by Commissioner Giraud to extend the employment contract of the Interim Executive Director for a period not to exceed six (6) months, ending on June 30, 2014 said extension would reflect the same terms and conditions of the existing employment contract. Said motion passed with a unanimous vote.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chairman Retsinas accepted a motion to adjourn from Commissioner Jackson, seconded by Commissioner Patino. Said motion passed with a unanimous voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Minutes Submitted and Approved By:

Lisa Cancelliere
Recording Secretary

Paul Tavares
Interim Executive Director