

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA HOUSING AUTHORITY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

DRAFT

MINUTES

Wednesday, March 8, 2017

(Full minutes will be published once approved)

The Board of Commissioners of the District of Columbia Housing Authority (“DCHA”) held its monthly meeting at DCHA Headquarters 1133 Capitol Street, N.E., Washington, DC 20002

I. CALL TO ORDER

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Terri Thompson, Chairman
William Slover
Ken Grossinger
Clarence Mobley
Nakeisha Neal Jones
Jose Ortiz Gaud

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT

Shelore Fisher
Kenneth Council
Aquarius Vann-Ghasri
Brian Kenner
Frank Lancaster

Chairman Thompson called the meeting to order at 1:27 pm. She announced that several of the Commissioners were taking part in training and therefore could not attend today’s meeting. She also read a statement regarding DCHA’s policy on decorum in public meetings. After a moment of silence, Chairman Thompson then asked for a roll call to determine a quorum.

II. ROLL CALL

Commissioner Ken Grossinger - “Here”
Commissioner Brian Kenner – no response
Commissioner Frank Lancaster – no response
Commissioner Clarence Mobley – “Present”
Commissioner Nakeisha Neal Jones – “Here”
Commissioner Jose Ortiz Gaud – “Here”
Commissioner Aquarius Vann-Ghasri – no response
Commissioner William Slover – “Present”
Commissioner Kenneth Council – no response
Commissioner Shelore Fisher – no response
Chairman Terri Thompson – “Present”

A quorum was recognized with six Commissioners present.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 8, 2017

Chairman Thompson asked the Commissioners to consider the minutes of the February 8, 2017 Board of Commissioners' meeting. A motion was made to approve the minutes and was seconded. The minutes of the December 14, 2016 BOC meeting were approved.

IV. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Todman highlighted the following activities that occurred during the month of February:

Black History Month – Director Todman thanked the Office of Resident Services as well as Operations for working with Resident Councils and organizing a movie outing for some DCHA youth to see the movie *Hidden Figures*, the story about black women who were instrumental in putting the first man into space.

Frederick Douglass Community Center – Director Todman announced that the former Frederick Douglas Community Center, located in Ward 8 Community Center near Henson Ridge, has been empty for the past decade or more, but is now open. She thanked the staff of Operations and the Office of Resident Services for their work in bringing the facility back online. Ms. Todman said that the center is now a technology hub that will house partners who will be providing computer training and refurbishment/repair. While *Byte Back* will offer computer training, *Project Reboot* will refurbish donated computer equipment for sale to low-income families at a greatly reduced priced.

Employee of the Month – Director Todman recognized Te'Ata Sanders of Operations as the employee of the month. She described Ms. Sanders as having a "get it done attitude" and said that she contributes to the goal of getting people housed. Ms. Sanders was presented with the Employee of the Month certificate and monetary award.

V. RESOLUTIONS

There were no resolutions before the Board

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

RESIDENTS

Connie McEachin – The daughter of Connie McEachin, a resident of Potomac Gardens came before the Board to state that her mother's apartment at Potomac Gardens has been burglarized. In addition, she stated that her mother's car was damaged by gunfire while parked at Potomac Gardens and has been totaled by the insurance company. She stated that her mother has been staying with relatives because she is fearful of staying in

her apartment and her multiple disabilities make it difficult for her to move with ease in and around the property. She stated they have contacted DCHA on her mothers' behalf and wanted to know what options she has as her mother has been paying rent for years for an apartment in which she is not living.. Director Todman asked Ms. McEachin's daughter to see Ms. Putscher, Director of Asset Management regarding her mother's reasonable accommodation request.

Stephanie Vann - Ms. Vann, a resident of Potomac Gardens, came before the Board to state that she started a program at Potomac Gardens called the *Peoples Help Initiative*. She stated that the program provides food and organic produce to residents as well as job training and was able to pay small stipends to youth during the summer months for their help with the program. Ms. Vann wants to expand the program at Potomac Gardens and asked for building space and legal assistance. She stated that she is facing some barriers and someone else will address that later in their testimony. In addition, additional information about the program will be provided later during additional testimony. Commissioner Ortiz Gaud commented to Ms. Vann that she is doing awesome work.

Jacqueline Shelton - Ms. Shelton stated that she is a voucher participant and was caring for her son who was legally on the lease where she lived. She said that she has been on the program for 17 years and has recently had issues completing her recertification. Specifically, she explained that while DCHA recertification specialists indicated that her documentation was correct, her landlord however informed her that the documents were not correct. Ms. Shelton stated that she has received an eviction notice and does not understand why. She also stated that she is willing to move somewhere else and that her son is now hospitalized and looking for permanent long term care. Director Todman asked Ms. Shelton to speak with Mr. McCoy, Director of the Housing Choice Voucher Program (HCVP) to assess her situation. She also informed Ms. Shelton that DCHA offers housing counseling. Commissioner Slover asked if Ms. Shelton's building was sold and requested DCHA find out.

NONRESIDENTS

Tenika McEachin – Ms. McEachin stated that she has been homeless for years and has been in and out of shelters. She stated that her son is regressing in school because he does not have a stable home environment. She also informed the Board that she has regularly been updating her housing application and asked for help getting housing. Director Todman asked Ms. McEachin to speak with both Mr. McCoy and Mr. Bovelleville, Deputy Executive Director of Operations, regarding her situation.

Margaret Dwyer – Ms. Dwyer stated that she is with *Showing Up for Racial Justice, DC Empowerment and Barry Farm Tenants and Allies Association*. She recommended that DCHA target to eliminate all vermin at its properties as one of the agencies performance targets. She shared a story with the Board regarding public targets for achievement in the school system where she formerly worked. She stated that the target was not popular with teachers or parents, but the targets were met.

Tem Ra – Mr. Ra commented on the program that Ms. Vann talked about earlier at Potomac Gardens. He also had additional documents for the Board to review regarding the program. He stated that \$70,000 worth of resources was used for job training and food for residents at Potomac Gardens. He stated that he is asking for the Boards' support and

has a complaint against Commissioner Vann-Ghasri for trying to stop Ms. Vann and her program.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Thompson announced that the next DCHA Board of Commissioners meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 12, 2017 at Capitol Quarter Community Center, 1000 5th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20003 at 1pm.

Meeting adjourned at 2:07 pm.

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