

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

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

Annual Meeting

Executive Director's Conference Room
1133 N. Capitol St., N.E. Washington, DC
Wednesday, December 13, 2017

Commissioner Neil Albert, Chairman
Commissioner Shelore Fisher
Commissioner Aquarius Vann-Ghasri
Commissioner Kenneth Council
Commissioner Bill Slover
Commissioner Frank Lancaster
Commissioner Jose Ortiz Gaud
Commissioner Nakeisha Neal Jones

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Chairman Albert called the meeting to order on Wednesday, December 13, 2017 at approximately 9:09 am.

CALL TO ORDER

The Annual meeting notice was announced.

**PRESENTATION OF THE
NOTICE OF THE ANNUAL
MEETING**

The minutes of the December 14, 2016 annual meeting were considered and approved.

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL
MEETING DECEMBER 14,
2016**

The General Counsel, Ken Slaughter stated that each year the Board elects a Vice-Chair. The Vice-Chair serves in the Chair's absence or if the Chair becomes incapacitated. The General Counsel described the election process and stated that the Board would be voting by secret ballot. He then opened the floor for nominations and stated that each nominee would have three minutes to speak. He further stated that the Chair could not hold both positions and that Commissioners' could nominate themselves for Vice Chair. Chairman Albert nominated the current Vice Chair Bill Slover. Commissioner Lancaster nominated Commissioner Ken Council.

**ELECTION OF THE VICE-
CHAIR**

Commissioner Slover stated that he acted in place of the Chair on one occasion in the absence of the Chair at a Board meeting in the last year and that the Vice Chair does not have any additional authority and felt that he did a good job. He also stated that he brings the important voice of the advocate community to the Board. Commissioner Council stated that he wanted to get the people's work done in stewardship and wants to serve the community. The Commissioners then wrote in their votes on their closed ballots that were then tallied by staff from

the Office of the General Counsel. Commissioner Bill Slover was elected by a 5 to 1 vote to serve as Vice Chair for another year.

Chairman Albert asked Mr. Slaughter to present resolution 17-36 to the Board. Mr. Slaughter gave the Board an overview of the resolution stating that resolution would create an Executive Committee consisting of five members (a quorum) and may vote on resolutions or conduct Board business where appropriate. It would also develop and annual performance plan for the Executive Director and would be a new standing Committee. The Chair and the Vice Chair would be members of the Committee. Commissioner Lancaster asked that the resolution be amended to state that one member of the Executive Committee be a housing resident Commissioner. Chairman Albert asked if there were any other standing Committees that required at least one housing resident Commissioner. Mr. Slaughter replied no. Commissioner Slover stated that he received a negative reaction from the advocates regarding this resolution because the Executive Committee has the power to pass resolutions. This takes away the power of the 11 member full Board and potentially violates the bylaws. He further stated that he did not believe that was the intent but it could possibly pass resolutions that may have some resistance. Chairman Albert stated that he has been in touch with advocates from the Washington Legal Clinic and that this Committee would act in emergency and is not intended to replace the views of the full Board. There was discussion regarding updating the bylaws. Commissioner Vann Ghasri stated that she thought the formation of the Executive Committee was a takeover. Commissioner Fisher stated that she felt like some of the votes of the other Commissioners would not be considered and that she was against the resolution. Commissioner Council stated that he has been researching the bylaws and felt that like this was a hostile takeover. He further stated that he felt some Board members were sent to do the work of the Mayor and the bylaws needed to be amended first. Mr. Slaughter stated that the Office of General Counsel have prepared proposed amendments to the bylaws and are prepared to make recommendations to update both the bylaws and the statute. Commissioner Vann-Ghasri asked that the Board be briefed on the rules, roles and procedures. She recommended Ms. Fitzgerald, a resident at Garfield Terrace who has specific certifications. Chairman Albert asked for feedback from the other Commissioners. Commissioner Ortiz Gaud stated that he would like to know more to make a better determination and added that he thought it would help in the process to expedite things that really need

**RESOLUTION 17-36
TO AUTHORIZE THE
CREATION OF AN
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF
THE BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS**

to get done. Commissioner Neal Jones stated that she thought it was a common practice to have an Executive Committee and that it would be good for the Board. Commissioner Slover asked where it stated in the resolution that it would give the Committee the authority to vote. Mr. Slaughter replied stated that its members would be a quorum and therefore could vote. The Board agreed to remove resolution 17-36 from the Board meeting agenda.

The proposed calendar of meeting for the 2018 Board of Commissioners' public meetings was presented to the Board. The Board agreed to cancel January and August 2018 meetings and add the Park View community center near Park Morton to the calendar for March of 2018.

The appointments of standing Committees were presented to the Board with the frequency of the meetings but added that the Committee Chairs would have a lot of leeway for scheduling. Commissioner Slover stated that the Operations Committee meetings are often held just prior to Brown Bag meetings on Board day and don't allow the Board enough time for review often before voting in the Board meetings on what was just presented in Committee on Operations meetings. Chairman Albert also added that new members would be appointed to the Board soon and would be additions to some Committees.

The Board was reminded that the annual financial disclosures are due in the spring of every year. The Board is expected to abide by Federal rules, HUD rules, BEGA rules and ethics and the members can provide there disclosures on line when they are due.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:10 a.m.

**ADOPTION OF CALENDAR
OF PUBLIC MEETINGS CY
2018**

**APPOINTMENTS TO THE
STANDING COMMITTEES**

**ANNUAL FINANCIAL
DISCLOSURE STATEMENTS
AND STANDARDS OF
CONDUCT**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS &
ADJOURNMENT**