



Minutes for Committee on Operations October 29, 2019

10/29/2019 | 11:06 AM - 12:08 PM - Eastern Time (US and Canada)

1133 N Capitol St. NE Executive Director's Conference room

Commissioners (6)

Franselene St. Jean; Bill Slover; Kenneth Council; Aquarius Vann-Ghasri; Antonio Taliaferro; LeJuan Strickland

Members absent: Commissioner Ortiz Gaud

Opening Remarks

Chairman Strickland opened the meeting at approximately 11:06 am.

Draft minutes of September 9, 2019

The draft minutes of September 9, 2019 were acknowledged and accepted as final.

OPAC presentation

Jose Sousa, Director of Public Affairs and Communications (OPAC) provided a briefing for the Committee on the future of DCHA branding. He also briefly reviewed the history of existing agency branding, recognition of existing agency logo, and the next steps with the branding. He stated that the current logo that former Commissioner Lancaster helped to design would be memorialized on the website and have a dedicated area in the building. Commissioner Vann-Ghasri requested that for as long as DCHA exists, the resident Commissioners should continue to have the logo that former Commissioner Lancaster helped to design on their business cards. Director Garrett and Mr. Sousa agreed. Mr. Sousa also stated that DCHA is creating a new scholarship in the name of former Commissioner Lancaster for \$5,000 a year and wants to get the Commissioners feedback on the elements of that process. Director Garrett added that since Commissioner Lancaster was a long time Chair of the Committee on Audit and Finance he thought it would be fitting to select recipients studying in the areas of business, finance, economics and accounting to receive the scholarships but not limit to those areas. Chairman Strickland asked if there were any costs associated with the new branding and logo. Mr. Sousa stated that current materials would be exhausted internally and we would look to the next fiscal year to finance larger items such as the seal in the Board room for example.

Commissioner Slover asked if we can consider changing the name to the DC Housing and Redevelopment Authority. Kenneth Slaughter, General Counsel stated that for non formal or marketing

use that name can be used but the statute establishes us at the DC Housing Authority. Chairman Strickland added that he felt it was appropriate and a great idea. There was discussion regarding DC Water as an example and their branding versus their legal name. Mr. Slaughter stated that they would come back to the Committee with a full report regarding the proposed name change and look into any legal issues if there are any.

Commissioners' Issues

Commissioner Council stated that he has received complaints from resident leaders stating that some managers are closing their doors and not responsive to residents.

Commissioner Taliaferro stated that a resident at Stoddert was put out that had mental issues and he wanted to know what help if any did she receive. He also stated that properties are filthy and not well maintained.

Commissioner St. Jean asked for clarity on the 50 evictions that took place last year that the advocates brought up in an earlier meeting. She also asked for a status on interim controls and what the \$24 million from the city would be used for. She also asked for a copy of the balance operating budget and what is the plan for each property identified in the transformation plan. The items were addressed in the meeting but Director Garrett stated that there would be follow up with Commissioner St. Jean.

Chairman Strickland asked the Committee to be specific with locations and times if possible when directing concerns to Director Garrett.

Commissioner Slover stated that he was surprised to hear the 4 properties with money will still be RAD that he thought the Board would get confirmation and a reason why if moving away from traditional public housing. There was discussion regarding the combination of RAD at Fort Dupont. Commissioner Slover asked if we can go to the City to ask to partner with us on RAD as potential opportunity.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:08 pm.