Minutes for Brown Bag Meeting June 12, 2019

06/12/2019 | 11:38 am - 01:16 pm - Eastern Time (US and Canada)
ED's Conference Room 1133 N. Capitol St. NE

Attendees (10)

Franselene St. Jean; Neil Albert; Bill Slover; Kenneth Council; Ken Grossinger; NaKeisha Neal Jones; Jose Ortiz Gaud; Aquarius Vann-Ghasri; Antonio Taliaferro; LeJuan Strickland
Commissioners Absent - Commissioner Kenner

Opening Remarks

Vice Chairman Council opened the meeting at approximately 11:38 am while Chairman Albert was en route.

Brown Bag draft minutes May 8, 2019

The brown bag draft minutes of May 8, 2019 were reviewed and accepted.

RESOLUTION 19-09 - To Accept Final Audit of DCHA for Fiscal Year 2018

Joanne Wallington, Director of Audit and Compliance provided an overview of resolution 19-09 stating that it requests the Board to accept the fiscal year 2018 audit. She introduced Mandy Merchant, Principal of CliftonLarsonAllen LLC (CLA) to the Board to provide the presentation regarding the audit. The presentation included an introduction of the audit team, subcontractor and the Section 3 requirement. Ms. Merchant stated that CLA provided two days excel training for two hours to residents. Commissioner Vann-Ghasri asked how residents were notified of the training. It was stated that residents were notified through the Office of Resident Services. Commissioner Slover asked if CLA had engaged with any other Commissioners other than the Chairman prior to today. She stated she had not. Commissioner Slover stated that he was unaware that the audit was available to the Commissioners prior to today's meeting. Ms. Merchant further reviewed the statements with the Board and Commissioner Slover asked where interim controls would be found on the statement. Barbara Chen, Director of Finance reminded the Board that the audit is for fiscal year 2018 and the majority of interim control expenses have been in fiscal year 2019 but indicated that about $3 million was spent in FY18 for interim controls. Ms. Merchant further reviewed the findings. Commissioner St. Jean asked about corrective action for inspections. Carolyn Punter, Housing

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Choice Voucher Director stated that a corrective action plan was put in place to ensure inspections are not missed. There was discussion regarding missed inspection reports that are now available. Commissioner Taliaferro asked if inspectors are trained properly. Ms. Punter stated that they are and have ongoing training but in the instance of the finding their was no fault with inspectors, they were not assigned the inspection to perform. There are checks and balances to ensure inspections are covered now. There was discussion regarding utility allowances. The audit recommends that the same person that prepares the utility allowance should not be able to approve it. Chairman Albert asked Ms. Merchant what her overall opinion of the agency is based on this most recent audit. Ms. Merchant stated that she thinks the agency has come a long way, a lot has changed and DCHA is doing a good job. Commissioner Neal Jones asked Ms. Merchant if she were in their seats as Commissioners what should they look for. She stated they should always look at the money.

RESOLUTION 19-18– To Create a Standing Committee on the Housing Choice Voucher Program

Chairman Albert stated that resolution 19-18 is to create a standing committee for the housing choice voucher program. They received feedback from HCVP participants requesting this committee be formed and that he was supportive of this. Commissioner Vann-Ghasri requested a resolution changing the Committee on Resident Services to the Committee on Resident Services Resident Initiatives. Commissioner Slover asked if the HCVP Committee would oversee and review policies of the Housing Choice Voucher Program. Chairman Albert stated that the focus of the Committee would be on policies of HCVP. Commissioner Slover stated that he felt there should be a broader discussion regarding how resolutions move through the committee level. Commissioner Grossinger stated that he felt the first level of vetting has worked well through committees. Ken Slaughter, General Counsel stated that Board procedures will reflect consensus on how you will operate and its best to have a set in place. The Office of the General Counsel will draft it. Commissioner Vann-Ghasri stated there was a conversation regarding term limits at the Committee on Bylaws and Statutory Updates meeting in January and would like to have that discussion revisited.

RESOLUTION 19-16 – To Authorize Modifications for Environmental Initiative Contracts

The Vice Chair moved to close this meeting to discuss Resolution 19-16 – To Authorize Modifications for Environmental Initiative Contracts, which includes discussion of the position to be taken in negotiating the price and other material terms of a contract that would adversely affect the bargaining position of the public

body, pursuant to D.C. Code § 2-575(b)(2). A motion was made a properly seconded an this portion of the meeting was closed.

FY20 MTW Briefing

Kim Cole, Director of Policy and Strategic Initiatives reminded the Board they were provided a copy of the proposed FY20 MTW plan on May 28th and if they had any questions regarding it that she was available. She further stated they are in the public comment period and would be coming back to the Board in July for approval.

Announcements and Adjournment

Chairman Albert announced the departure of DCHA's longest serving Board member Ken Grossinger and thanked him for his dedication and service. Commissioner Grossinger thanked the Board and announced he will be continuing his work. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:16 pm.

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