



NORTHAMPTON HOUSING AUTHORITY

ANNUAL MINUTES APPROVED

Feb Meeting Held on MARCH 18, 2019

Members of the Northampton Housing Authority met in Regular Session at “McDonald House” at 49 Old South Street, Northampton, Ma. on Monday, March 18, 2019.

The Chairperson called the Annual Meeting to order at 6:29 P.M.

Upon Roll Call, those present and absent were as follows:

PRESENT: Commissioner Laufer, Commissioner Silver, Commissioner Richards, Commissioner Brooks and Chairperson Jones.

ABSENT: NONE

ALSO PRESENT: Cara Leiper; Maria Walton; Deb Dunphy; Sharon Kimble; Keith Walsh; Tom O’Connor; Jack Redman; Lisa Donoghue; Lynn King; Joseph & Angela Santaniello; John Wyda; Brenda Thompson; Ronald Hebert; Roy Martin; Jason Potts; Heidi Sousse; Pat Sullivan; David Arce; Paul Belanger and Wayne Milo.

At this time, Chairperson Jones asked for a moment of silence to remember Commissioner Budgar.

Chairperson Jones stated that Gerry was easily the most passionate person I’ve worked with at the Authority on the Board and is a great loss for us, and we are playing catch up.

APPROVAL OF THE 2018 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

Commissioner Brooks put forth the motion to approve, Commissioner Richards seconded the motion.

VOTING AYE: Commissioner Laufer, Richards, Brooks and Chairperson Jones.

VOTING NAY: NONE

ABSTAIN: Commissioner Silver

Whereupon Chairperson Jones approved the Annual Minutes.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The Executive Director said she omitted the Treasurer from the original sheet that was emailed to the Board, she gave them a new copy in their folder tonight. With someone being the Treasurer, they need to be prepared to come to NHA a minimum of one time a week, but more likely three times a week.

Cara asked if anyone would like to make a nomination for Chairperson?

Commissioner Laufer put forth the motion to nominate Commissioner Richards for Chairperson.

Cara asked if there was a second? The motion was seconded by Commissioner Silver.

Commissioner Brooks put forth the motion to nominate Chairperson Jones as the Chairperson, seconded by Commissioner Silver. Commissioner Silver asked both members to state why they would like to run for this position.

Chairperson Jones said he has been the acting Chair for a few years. I thought with the relative turnover of the Board, that we now have new faces on the Board that I would put myself forward as Chair for one more year and then transition out. I've been on the Board for some time, and I don't want to be stuck in any one position. It may very well have transitioned out this time around. With the passing of Commissioner Budgar that kind of hurt us as far as stability. As for vision we are in a tough time right now dealing with a Federal Government who doesn't believe in affordable housing and the State government who talks the talk but doesn't deliver. I am just looking to maintain and grow.

Commissioner Richards said she is so pleased to be a Commissioner on the Board. She is willing to do whatever the Board wishes her to do. There is room to grow, everyone is doing a terrific good job so far. She loves the Board Members and whatever happens in terms of my service on the Board I am willing to support it. As for Vision, I have just completed the Housing Authority training and it was quite a long training and it is very informative and I see how much we have to grow in terms of our policies, in terms of our practices, in terms of our tenants. I think we are doing a good job, of course we can always do better. I am willing to be on the Board in whatever capacity and lend my time to achieve those results.

The Executive Director asked all those in favor for Jeff Jones to remain Chairperson say "Aye".
Commissioner Brooks voted "Aye" as well as Chairperson Jones.

The Executive Director asked all those in favor of Marilyn Richards for Chairperson say "Aye".
Commissioners Laufer, Silver and Richards voted "Aye".

Jeff Jones congratulated Marilyn Richards as being voted in for Chairperson.

The Executive Director congratulated Marilyn Richards as Chairperson for the Board.

The Executive Director asked for nominees for Vice Chairperson – Chairperson Richards nominated James Brooks, seconded by Commissioner Jones. The Executive Director asked for a vote for Commissioner Brooks to be Vice Chair.

VOTING AYE: Commissioners Laufer, Silver, Jones and Chairperson Richards.

VOTING NAY: NONE

TREASURER: The Treasurer needs to be available to come to NHA up to three times a week to sign checks. Nomination for Treasurer? Jim Brooks said he lives here and it's pretty easy for him to come down and sign checks.

Commissioner Silver nominated James Brooks for Treasurer, seconded by Chairperson Richards.

VOTING AYE: Commissioner Laufer, Silver, Jones and Chairperson Richards.

VOTING NAY: NONE

SECRETARY: Cara Leiper

At this point Marilyn Richards moved to continue the meeting as Chairperson. She thanked everyone for their vote and said she will do the best job she possibly can. I know I am going to be learning and growing in this position and I look forward to working with the Board and Cara and having Jeff as a mentor.

Chairperson Richards stated that the following positions are appointed positions and these are the suggestions :

Grievance Panel – Chairperson

Personnel Sub Committee – Vice Chairperson

Housing Partnership Officer – Treasurer

Community Preservation Act Officer – Treasurer

Procurement Officer – Secretary

Is there any discussion on those suggestions?

Commissioner Jones asked if the seat on the Community Preservation Act is Cara? Chairperson Richards replied that it is the written suggestion here, but what I am saying is that it doesn't necessarily have to be that way, it's an appointment by the Chair, so if anyone else is interested, please speak up.

Commissioner Jones stated that he would like to continue on the CPA committee.

Grievance Panel – one Board open seat. It now has James Brooks and Sydney Mackay.

Personnel Sub Committee – Marilyn Richards and James Brooks.

Housing Partnership Officer – is that open? Cara – currently open. Chairperson Richards asked if anyone is interested, let her know. She also asked if maybe she makes the appointments and come back to it at the next meeting. Please let me know your thoughts. Commissioner Laufer asked about the Housing Partnership vacancy. Cara replied that it is a committee that the City has and they ask that someone from the Housing Authority Board be on this committee. They have had a hard time filling this seat because they have very long meetings and they run late; this is the feedback she has heard from people who have been on the committee. The Grievance Panel is just an on call type of thing, whenever there is a grievance. The CPA Jeff goes to already, and it is a city committee.

Chairperson Richards will contact people individually and provide more information if she can and lean on Jim or Cara, but if you just let me know your preferences we will work with those. If anybody is interested in the Housing Partnership seat, if we can fill it, but we are at an extreme disadvantage because we are five and that will be a lot of work for people. If we can have a liaison with the City at least know what each other is up to, I think that would be my preference. Chairperson Richards to find out when they meet. Cara will email the Mayor's office. Chairperson Richards stated that she will postpone the committees until the next meeting - is there any other business? Cara asked if in the meantime the current positions remain? Chairperson Richards said yes – and she will contact people by the next meeting with their preferences and try to fill everything if possible. So to recap - Commissioner Jones will continue with CPA. Commissioner Laufer has agreed to be on the Grievance Committee and Commissioner Silver whose preference is the Personnel Committee. Is there any other business for the election of officers committee? I will then ask for a motion to adjourn.

Commissioner Jones put forth the motion, seconded by Commissioner Silver.

Whereupon the Annual Meeting was adjourned at 6:50 P.M.