



NORTHAMPTON HOUSING AUTHORITY

NOVEMBER 2020 MINUTES

Approved December 22, 2020 By Northampton Housing Authority Board

Members of the Northampton Housing Authority met via “Zoom” on Monday, November 16, 2020 at 5:00 P.M.

The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 5:01 P.M.
Upon Roll Call, those present and absent were as follows:

PRESENT: Chairperson Richards; Commissioner Brooks; Commissioner Silver.

ABSENT: Commissioner Laufer & - Commissioner Jones

ALSO PRESENT: Cara Leiper; Jack Redman; Keith Walsh; Sharon Kimble; Deb Dunphy Smith; Attorney Tom O'Connor; Donyaël Parrish; Jose Cruz; Heather Maxwell; Lisa Donoghue; Maitty Delhoyo; Kaitlin Hanning; David Arce; Netanya Ortiz; Roy Martin; Jada Tarbutton; Kay Chapman; Joseph & Angela Santaniello.

TENANT COMMENTS

Jada Tarbutton – Salvo – tomorrow is my Birthday, cards and money accepted! Regarding COVID-people are not adhering to mask wearing. People are loitering in the building. The first of the month the drug dealers show up. Need to revisit having security guards at Salvo. Is there a possibility of giving residents a stipend to be at the front door and checking people as they come into the building. We don't know who is coming in and out of the building now. Regarding the Agenda – can you use a larger Font so I can see it better. She is being asked by tenants if they are allowed to be moved from one building to another, and can it be done with Huntington and Cummington properties?

Angela Santaniello – Salvo – the wearing of masks is now mandatory but not so in this building. When people from the Housing leave, the residents don't wear masks, and there is a lot of anger when asked to wear a mask. A lady was hit when asked to put on a mask before entering the elevator. Many people at Salvo have mental health and substance abuse issues. Someone close to them have tested positive for COVID. Contact tracing is difficult in this building – no one knows what is going on in the building. We have been exposed. Also, maybe tenants can refrain from smoking by the main front door.

Chairperson Richards – we will get back to you on this.

Joseph Santaniello – Salvo – What is the protocol at Salvo – will someone get back to us?

Chairperson Richards – yes.

Kay Chapman – McDonald – No police are needed at McDonald. Can you put up sanitizer for the residents. Address the issue of anger and loneliness with the residents.

Roy Martin – Salvo – How can we afford police security? The police are here all the time. Maintenance is spraying the building, hopefully all of the buildings are getting sprayed. Need to have a written copy of the Board minutes posted – maybe a certified secretary for the minutes. Regarding what Jada said about people getting a stipend to work the door – I think it may be unlawful. On the two new Board members – is anyone in yet?

Chairperson Richards – We will get back to you on this.

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STAFF COMMENT – NONE
PUBLIC COMMENT – NONE

APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 2020 MINUTES

Commissioner Silver Abstained as she was not at the meeting.
Since three Board members are needed to approve the minutes, Attorney O'Connor suggested it be tabled to the next meeting.

OLD BUSINESS: NONE

NEW BUSINESS

MOTION – APPROVE LOW BIDDER FOR FALL CLEANUP

Ten companies were asked to bid, no reply from seven. Spring Valley bid \$9,645.00 for (10) properties. They have done the fall cleanups in the past.

Commissioner Brooks put forth the motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Silver.

VOTING AYE: Chairperson Richards, Commissioner Brooks and Commissioner Silver.

VOTING NAY: NONE

Therefore, Chairperson Richards approved the Motion.

DISCUSSION – UPDATE ON HAMPSHIRE HEIGHTS PLAYGROUND, FLORENCE HEIGHTS GARDENS, SALVO CAMERAS AND SALVO FLOORING.

Jack Redman spoke about the Salvo cameras – all the wiring is finished and most of the cameras are installed. The last week of November we will do the final walk through. There is a concern for the camera workers and the carpet contractors being at Salvo at the same time. Cameras will be finished before the flooring gets started. On October 29th the carpet was ordered – all floors will be done as well as the entryway and the first floor. Carpet should be coming in the last week of November.

Regarding the Hampshire Heights playground – On 10/23 and 11/12 there were zoom meetings held with the residents for input. On November 18th we will be sending out the official voting cards to the children to pick playground structures. NHA was able to get a discount on the equipment – ordered from same place as the schools. The playground will abut the gardens and will be 20% wheelchair accessible. Two new raised beds will be put in as well as picnic areas. The kids were surprised they can pick from so many pieces of equipment!

Florence Heights – New avid gardeners! This past weekend they built some beds for planting in the spring. They have a small play structure there and the Elms students spent time finding the best place for the new beds – they will be made horizontal around the play structure. This promoted lots of positive feedback. Cara suggested painting the beds yellow and orange.

Chairperson Richards – this is all very exciting!

Commissioner Brooks and Commissioner Silver – looks great!

Chairperson Richards – will all the people who helped receive a formal thank you?

Jack – the RSC has already sent out some emails. The kids will be part of the grand opening – hopefully in the spring. We are purchasing equipment now, maybe before the ground freezes we can do some ground breaking. The new beds will have soil put in before winter. At Florence Heights there is a triangle area where we will build gardens and the Schools will have a program there with the kids. Also, WIFI from the Florence heights office reaches the triangle area so maybe the kids can do their schoolwork there if we get some benches.

Chairperson Richards – I applaud the collaboration – this is good all the way around!

There was a discussion on the time of the next Board Meeting on December 21st. Commissioner Brooks says that everyone should be able to attend. Commissioner Silver suggested Cara check with Commissioner Jones and Commissioner Laufer before setting a time. Cara will send them an email. Chairperson Richards thanked Cara and Jack for their time and effort for all the projects that are going on at the Housing Authority.

Commissioner Brooks put forth the motion to adjourn the November meeting at 5:37 P.M., seconded by Chairperson Richards.