

COMMISSIONERS' REGULAR BOARD MEETING
June 21, 2017

Resolution(s) Passed:

(17-13) Resolution of the Richmond Redevelopment and Housing Authority to
Approve the Annual Agency Plan for Fiscal Year 2017 – 2018

MOTIONS: Young/Abbott

VOTE: Aye: Jones, Adams, Young, Coleman, Abbott, Kessler,
Blount

ABSTAIN: None

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMISSIONERS
OF RICHMOND REDEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING AUTHORITY
HELD AT THE CALHOUN CENTER
436 CALHOUN STREET, RICHMOND, VIRGINIA
ON WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21, 2017

In Attendance:

Board of Commissioners

Robley S. Jones, Jr., Chairman
Robert J. Adams, Vice Chairman
Samuel S. Young, Jr.
Jonathan Coleman
Heidi Abbott
Neil S. Kessler
Veronica G. Blount

Absent

Elliott M. Harrigan
Marilyn B. Olds

RRHA Staff

T.K. Somanath, Chief Executive Officer

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 5:39 p.m. with *Lane Pearson* serving as Legal Counsel. A quorum was established.

2017 Tomorrow's Promise Scholarship Awards

The recipients of the Tomorrow's Promise Scholarships were presented to the Board of Commissioners. Each recipient received a \$4,000 scholarship to be used for their college education.

Listed below are the 2017 Tomorrow's Promise scholars along with the college that they plan to attend and their field of study:

- Audrey Wilkerson, VCU/Biology and Spanish
- Breyanna Wilkerson, VCU/Health and Exercise Science
- Mya Jeter, Mary Washington University/Nursing
- Michael Allen, Jr., Old Dominion University/Marine Science
- Kevin Thomas, Old Dominion University/Undecided/Computer Science
- Phillisha Hopson, VCU/Radiation Science

Richmond Opportunities, Inc. (ROI)

Elaine Summerfield, Acting Executive Director of ROI introduced two of the ROI board members, Jeff Cribbs, *Chairman*, and Geoff McDonald to the Board of Commissioners. She gave a brief overview of ROI. The following key points were discussed:

- ***ROI's Mission:***
 - To develop, support and implement permanent solutions that create strong, independent families in Richmond's public housing communities.

- ***ROI Supports the Residents of RRHA:***
 - ROI is focused on leveraging community resources toward positive progress for the individuals, families, and children.
- ***What is ROI's Role?:***
 - ROI will create a path to self-sufficiency, resilience, and thriving for residents in Richmond's public housing communities.

The following suggestions were made by the Commissioners:

- ROI should find a way to partner with the Chamber of Commerce.
- RRHA and ROI should meet periodically in an effort to work together strategically.
- Provide asset mapping.

Minutes

The Minutes from the *May 17, 2017 Regular Board of Commissioners Meeting* were approved.

***1 Motion: (Adams/Kessler) Move to adopt the Minutes from the
May 17, 2017 Regular Board of Commissioners Meeting.***

Motion Carried Unanimously

Citizen Information Period

Ashley Apple, a registered nurse, addressed the Board of Commissioners regarding the recent violence in Mosby Court. She wanted to know what steps RRHA is taking to address this issue, the additional resources that are needed to combat the problem and if RRHA is partnering with other agencies to examine the problem.

Chairman Jones asked Ms. Apple to meet with CEO Somanath and Carol Jones-Gilbert, Chief Operating Officer to discuss her questions.

Chairman's Comments

Chairman Jones provided the following comments and/or updates:

He congratulated staff for all of their hard work with the 2017 Tomorrow's Promise Scholarship recipients.

Due to a scheduling conflict, he asked that the board meeting for July be moved from July 19th to July 17th at 5:30 p.m.

Chairman Jones also informed the Board members that the ribbon cutting ceremony for the Highland Park Senior Apartments will be held on June 27th.

In addition, he mentioned that each Commissioner may be asked to meet with members of city council.

Chief Executive Officer's Comments

CEO Somanath provided the following comments and/or updates:

- He congratulated the students for their hard work in earning the scholarships. In addition, he thanked Ralph Stuckey for reaching out to the students and encouraging them.
- The Real Estate Retreat will be held on June 28th from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. He encouraged all board members to attend the retreat.
- Councilman Hilbert has secured a grant from the City in the amount of \$100,000 that will be used to re-open the pool at the Calhoun Center.
- Ongoing discussions continue with the police department to discuss strategies to make RRHA communities safer.
- Weekly meetings are being held with Councilwoman Robertson, the police department and various partners to discuss ways to combat crime in RRHA public housing communities, especially in the Mosby Court community.
- Ralph Stuckey and Orlando Artze organized an event to recruit public housing youths for summer programs. They are also looking at other programs that can be used to engage families and their youth during the summer months.

Resolution(s)

The following resolution(s) were presented for consideration:

Agenda Item No. 1 – Resolution of the Richmond Redevelopment and Housing Authority to Approve the Annual Agency Plan for Fiscal Year 2017 – 2018

(17-13) BE IT RESOLVED by the Commissioners of the Richmond Redevelopment and Housing Authority that the Agency Plan for Fiscal Year 2017 - 2018, which was read and considered, is approved and adopted.

2 Motion: (Young/Abbott) Move to approve Resolution 1

Motion Carried Unanimously

Closed Session

At 6:43 p.m., Commissioner Blount asked to go into closed session and read the following motion:

I move that we go into closed meeting to consult with legal counsel and staff regarding specific personnel matters included, employee performance related to property management issues as permitted by Section 2.2-3711(A)(1) of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act.

and

I move that we go into closed meeting to consult with legal counsel and staff pertaining to actual or probable litigation or other specific legal matters including, probable litigation regarding property management and debt collection efforts as permitted by Section 2.2-3711(A)(7) of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act

3 Motion: (Blount/Abbott) Move to go into Closed Session.

Motion Carried Unanimously

CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED MEETING

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of the Richmond Redevelopment and Housing Authority (the "Board") convened a closed meeting on this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with the provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and

WHEREAS, Section 2.2-3711(B) of the Code of Virginia of 1950, as amended, requires a certification by the Board that such closed meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia law.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board hereby certifies that, to the best of each member's knowledge, (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the closed meeting to which this certification resolution applies and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed meeting were heard, discussed or considered by the Board.

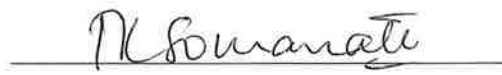
4 Motion: (Blount/Young) Move to accept the certification.

Motion Carried Unanimously

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.


Chairman


Chief Executive Officer/Secretary