



BROWARD HOUSING COUNCIL MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER: A regular meeting of the Broward Housing Council was held on July 29, 2011, commencing at 10:11a.m., at the African American Research Library and Cultural Center (AARLCC), located at 2650 Sistrunk Boulevard, Seminar Room 2, Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

ROLL CALL: Roll call was conducted by Mr. Ralph Stone.

Council Members Present:

Richard Barkett	Mercedes Nunez
George Castrataro	John Primeau
Cynthia Chambers	Lisa Vecchi
Ann Deibert	Lois Wexler, Chair, Broward County Commissioner
Patricia Good, Broward County School Board	

Council Members Absent:

Paul Figg	Tina Mulligan
Lori Moseley, Mayor, City of Miramar	Monica Navarro

Staff:

Angela Chin	Ralph Stone	Michael Wright
Patrice Eichen	Elizabeth Kersting	

I. APPROVAL OF APRIL 15, 2011 MEETING MINUTES

***MOTION:** It was moved by Ms. Good and seconded by Ms. Deibert to approve the Minutes of the Broward Housing Council meeting of April 15, 2011 as submitted. The Motion was passed by a unanimous voice vote.*

II. CHAIR'S REPORT:

Chair Commissioner Wexler informed Council members that Mr. Anthony Abbate representing the Florida Atlantic University Center for Urban Redevelopment and Education and Vice Chair, Dr. Rosalind Osgood, Chief Executive of a recognized, not-for-profit homeless organization resigned from the Housing Council. She also indicated that the League of Cities appointed Mr. Richard Lemack, Town of Davie Administrator replacing Gary Shimun in the category of City Manager of a city with more than 50,000 residents and Mr. Robert Baldwin, City Manager of Dania Beach replacing City Manager Ms. Anita Fain Taylor from the City of Lauderdale Lakes in the category of City Manager with less than 50,000 residents. She further stated that she would like to recommend minorities be appointed to the Council because they represent a cross section demographic and economic composition of the neighborhoods that are being served. Mr. Wright concurred and stated that appointed representatives should also have affordable housing experience in the area of permanent housing for the homeless. Chair Commissioner Wexler requested that all recommendations be submitted to Ralph Stone.

III. DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Mr. Stone provided a brief update on the Housing Council's Affordable Housing Web Site stating that staff is continuing to make great progress on the web site. He mentioned a meeting that was held on Friday, July 22nd amongst County Staff to review different aspects which resulted in making a number of adjustments to the web site. He also mentioned that Members of Broward County's Office of Public Communications (OPC) continue to do a great job for staff in assisting with adjustments to the web site. Mr. Stone stated that staff is still on track in terms of design and implementation of the web site. Chair Commissioner Wexler inquired if there will be any other updates or demonstrations. Mr. Stone responded yes, there will be a demonstration prior to the roll out date.

Mr. Stone deferred to Mr. Michael Wright to provide an update on future developments for the homeless.

Mr. Wright informed Council members that the application process for new funding will be coming up in late August early September. He stated that interested applicants will have an opportunity to apply for a \$497,000 that will be a permanent housing project providing 17 new units for 17 homeless youths coming out of foster care. He stated that this will be a collaborative application process between Children Services and Homeless Transitional Youth program.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Election of Officer, Vice Chair

Chair Commission Wexler stated that Dr. Rosalind Osgood has resigned from the Housing Council leaving her position as Vice Chair vacant. She also stated that at the last meeting, a motion was made to remove Dr. Osgood from the Vice Chair position due to violating the attendance requirements and to appoint another member. Members nominated Ms. Monica Navarro, and she accepted the nomination; however, a formal election was to be held at the next meeting in July.

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Primeau and seconded by Ms. Vecchi to approve the nomination of Ms. Monica Navarro as Vice Chair of the Housing Council. The Motion was passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Stone will contact Ms. Navarro informing her that she is officially the Vice Chair of the Housing Council.

B. Proposed updates 2009 Broward Affordable Housing Needs Assessment (Study)

Mr. Stone provided a brief update on the Affordable Housing Needs Assessment Study that was prepared by the Metropolitan Center at Florida International University (MC/FIU) in 2009. He stated that the MC/FIU was approached to provide the Housing Council with an updated Study which will provide a current perspective on the economy and housing needs in Broward County. MC/FIU has agreed to update the Study for a quoted price of \$25,000. Mr. Stone noted that the Housing Council currently has adequate funding from the current year's budget including funding that was supplemented for development and implementation of the web site and recommended the Housing Council to authorize staff to contract with MC/FIU to support the update.

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Barkett and seconded by Ms. Good to authorize staff to enter into an agreement with the Metropolitan Center at Florida International University (MC/FIU) to update the 2009 Housing Needs Assessment Study for a cost of \$25,000. The Motion was passed by a unanimous voice vote.

C. Update on the Countywide “Making Homes Affordable Seminar” held Monday, July 11, 2011 at The Westin Diplomat Resort and Spa

Mr. Stone provided an overview of the free countywide affordable housing seminar that was held at the Westin Diplomat Resort and Spa Monday, July 11, 2011. He informed Council members that this event was well attended by approximately 1,300 homeowners and was well covered by the media. He stated this was due to the fact that letters of invitations were sent out to residents from every bank in Broward County that were 90 days past due in their mortgage and needed help to modify or refinance their mortgage payments to avoid foreclosures on their homes. He also stated that over 300 persons signed up for the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) counseling services. Commissioner Wexler commended Mr. Stone and Ms. Suzanne Weiss of Neighborhood Housing Services for the strong role they played in making this event possible.

D. Ordinance Pertaining to a Code of Ethics for Broward County Boards

Broward County Attorney, Ms. Patrice Eichen provided a brief overview of the ordinance pertaining to the Code of Ethics for Broward County Boards. She referred to an Advisory Board Gift Restriction Decision Chart that was distributed to the Council Members and went over the various categories of definition. She stated that it was recommended that members become aware of the code of ethics in terms of receiving gifts. Several issues were discussed among the members for clarification and interpretation of the ordinance. Ms. Eichen provided explanations to questions asked and emphasized that the key to this ordinance was only specifically relating to the official capacity as an advisory board member of the Housing Council and nothing else regardless of being a city official. Chair Commissioner Wexler cautioned that this ordinance not only pertains to the Housing Council members but also to their immediate family members.

V. OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business brought before the board.

VI. INFORMATIONAL ITEM

Chair Commissioner Wexler made reference to informational items pertaining to the 2011 Legislative Wrap-Up. She informed Council members that the legislative session will begin early this year.

VII. NEXT MEETING

Date: Friday, August 26, 2011
Time: 10:00 a.m. – 12:00pm
Location: African America Research Library and Cultural Center, (AARLCC), Seminar Room 2
2650 Sistrunk Boulevard, Fort Lauderdale, Florida

Mr. Barkett requested to be excused from the next two Housing Council meetings until December 16, 2011. He stated that on Friday August 26, he will be attending the State Children’s Convention in Orlando, and on Friday, October 28, he will be in Washington DC on legislative matters. Ms. Good also asked to be excused due to family/school commitments in the months of August and October.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 11:00am.

Disclosure: The above captioned Minutes are transcribed in a summary format. To hear the full meeting, a compact disk of the meeting (#DR-11-SC-110) can be provided after 24 hour notice to the Document Control and Minutes Section at 954-357-4900.