

HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES OF SW WASHINGTON BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS SPECIAL MEETING

Monday, March 20th at 4:00 p.m.
820 11th Ave., Longview, WA.
Minutes to Special Meeting

Chairperson Nolte called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM

Present

Chair, Floyd "Gus" Nolte
Vice Chair, Linda Brigham
Commissioner, Bruce Fischer
Commissioner, Wayne Ostermiller
Commissioner, Peter Bennett
Commissioner, Lori Bashor-Sarancik
Secretary, Chris Pegg

Absent

Staff

Becky Phillips, Finance Manager
Vickie Rhodes, Housing Programs Supervisor
Ariana Anderson, Administrative Assistant
Katie Bonus, Asset Manager
Jon Dieter, Director of Community Service

CHANGES AND ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA: Commissioner Bashor-Sarancik requested a discussion item be added to the agenda regarding the conversation she and CEO Pegg had with Vince Penta.

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC DISCUSSION: No comments.

MONTHLY REPORTS: Commissioner Fischer summarized the Finance Committee meeting for the Board. He then suggested the Board consider discontinuance of the monthly Finance Committee meeting. There is always an opportunity to pull the Financial Reports from the consent agenda for separate discussion. The Board discussed the idea and agreed by consensus.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Commissioner Fischer moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.
Commissioner Ostermiller second the motion.

Motion passed unanimously.

CHAIRMAN AND SECRETARY REPORTS: Chairperson Nolte discussed a recent conversation regarding the food pantry at Mark Morris High School. A couple of students have created the pantry in recognition of the need for food for low income and homeless students. They have informational brochures they would like placed in our lobby as well as adding it to the Section 8 briefing packets. Chairperson Nolte urged board members to actively participate in more advocacy regarding the Housing Trust Fund and the upcoming anticipated cuts.

Administrative fees are currently prorated at 77% and Housing Assistance Payments are prorated at 94%.

Secretary Pegg informed the board of her and Commissioner Bashor-Saranick's meeting with Vince Penta today. Mr. Penta was supportive of the creation of a homeless youth outreach center in the Riverfront zoning district and agreed to support HOSWWA with a request for zoning modifications.

Secretary Pegg discussed the President's proposed "Skinny budget" that, if passed, would result in a loss of approximately 4700 vouchers within the State, as well as deep cuts to public housing and HOME and elimination of CDBG.

Housing Programs Supervisor Rhodes explained the current waiting list halt in preparation of the changes to come. There are currently 50 families out searching for housing. The rental market continues to harden and rental rates are increasing rapidly, making it difficult for families to find housing.

Secretary Pegg informed the board of the annual staff event scheduled for Tuesday, March 21. Management will be serving breakfast for staff. Two employees, nominated by their peers, will be recognized as Employees of the Year. Staff will be recognized for length of service as well.

Secretary Pegg reported on the on-going discussions of the Ad Hoc Committee formed by the Longview City Council to develop a draft Homeless Shelter Ordinance. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 22nd at 5:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers. The discussion will center on expansion of allowable zones, defining different types of shelters and establishment of buffer zones. The meetings are open to the public.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

BOARD DISCUSSION: UPDATE ON COWLITZ COUNTY HOMELESS YOUTH OUTREACH CENTER

Secretary Pegg informed the board of the defacing of the property windows at both homes. The windows have been replaced and motion detector lights and security cameras installed. This has created a set back in the date of completion. Love Inc., has been helping with the rehab of the center and they are nearing completion. Fibre Federal and Bicoastal Media announced the recent selection of Janus Youth for the Wheels of Hope program. Janus will receive a vehicle and donations of various items throughout the campaign. Fibre is placing 30 barrels around the community requesting donations of hygiene kits, backpacks (approximately 800), school supplies, and cash for the purchase of shoes and clothing. SignMasters 360 has also generously agreed to donate the logo for the vehicle.

BOARD DISCUSSION: READ MORE LEARN MORE INITIATIVE

Vickie Rhodes discussed the event Read More Learn More recently had on March 2nd at Lilac Place. The event drew 8 children who were treated to a story read by a volunteer librarian from the Columbia Heights Elementary School. She was dressed as Cat in The Hat. The children participated in NAHRO's national coloring contest, "What Home Means To Me" and a small craft making bookmarks. The event was well received by both children and parents who attended. Staff is currently working on another event recognizing local heroes. Staff member, Joey Wardell is leading this event and is working on securing attendance of local First Responders including the Woodland Fire Department, Woodland Police Department, Paramedics and the National Guard. Joey will also be donating copies of his book, *Doodey the Combat Camel*, to all kids in

attendance. This event is scheduled for Saturday, April 15th, 2017 at 1:00 p.m. located in the field across the way from Lilac Place. Both Lilac Place and Tulip Valley residents are invited to attend. The Read More, Learn More Committee anticipates another event to be held during the summer. Ariana has placed another book order for bilingual books and ages 0-8.

NEW BUSINESS:

BOARD DISCUSSION: Conversation with Vince Penta regarding changes to regulations and zoning

Commissioner Bashor-Sarancik reported on the meeting she and CEO Pegg recently attended with Vince Penta. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss possible zoning changes to support creation of a Homeless Youth Outreach Center. Mr. Penta agreed to supporting this work and requested HOSWWA consider supporting a request he and colleagues are working on to request regulation changes to encourage the development of affordable housing. No action was taken.

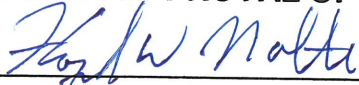
EXECUTIVE SESSION: None scheduled.

SCHEDULING OF NEXT REGULAR MEETING: April 17, 2017

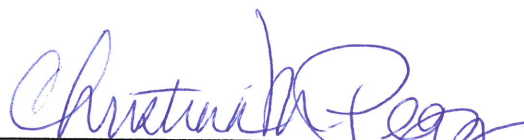
Respectfully submitted by:

CHRISTINA M. PEGG, Chief Executive Officer

BOARD APPROVAL OF MINUTES



Floyd "Gus" Nolte, Chairperson



Attest: Christina M. Pegg, Secretary