

Minutes of Meeting of
The Housing Authority of the City of Galveston, Texas
Island Community Center Community Room
4700 Broadway, Galveston, TX 77551
August 29, 2022 – 9:00 a.m.

The Board of Commissioners of the Housing Authority of the City of Galveston, Texas (GHA) met as stated above. Chairman William Ansell called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and declared a quorum was present. He further clarified that the meeting was duly posted. The following commissioners were noted present: Chairman Ansell; Vice-Chair Betty Massey; Raymond Turner; Patricia Toliver; and Brax Easterwood.

Commissioners Absent: None

Others Present: Mona Purgason, Executive Director
Gus Knebel, Legal Counsel

Election of Officers of the Board of Commissioners

Commissioner Massey nominated Commissioner Ansell as Chairman, and Commissioner Ansell nominated Commissioner Massey as Vice-Chair. The slate of officers was approved unanimously.

Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings

Commissioner Easterwood moved approval of the minutes of the July 25, 2022 board meeting and Commissioner Toliver seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

Public Comments

Tarris Woods spoke in favor of renaming the Island Community Center after Walter Norris, the first African-American Executive Director of the Galveston Housing Authority who made many contributions including the homeownership program and the purchase and refitting of the Island Community Center.

Stephanie Taylor-Thomas, a former employee of Galveston Housing Authority, spoke in favor of renaming the Island Community Center after Walter Norris.

Hilda Garcia, a former employee of Galveston Housing Authority, spoke in favor of renaming the Island Community Center after Walter Norris. She further read a written comment by Patricia Hypolite in favor of renaming the building after Mr. Norris.

Lillian McGrew stated she understood there was a process to everything, and spoke in favor of considering renaming the Island Community Center after Walter Norris.

Rosalyn Jackson, a former employee of Galveston Housing Authority, spoke in favor of renaming the Island Community Center after Walter Norris.

Ms. Jones asked the Board to consider renaming the Island Community Center after Walter Norris.

Discussion Items

Discuss ICC Name – Vice-Chair Massey stated she was familiar with Walter Norris and had tremendous respect for him, but opposed the item, as GHA did not have a history of naming developments after individuals. She stated GHA should have a criteria and process for naming developments or buildings in honor of individuals before making the decision.

The Board discussed obtaining more information before a vote was taken, and Chairman Ansell stated the item would be considered and would be an action item on the next Agenda.

Secretary's Report

Development Report – Deyna Sims, Director of Real Estate and Development, reported on the 26 scattered site units that 23 of the 24 existing units had passed HQS inspections, 5 units were online, 7 units were pending, and it was anticipated for 3 more to be online in September. Monique Chavoya from MBS reported construction was progressing at The Oleanders at Broadway. She reported plumbing, floor trusses and sheeting, framing, decking, concrete and masonry were all ongoing in the various blocks.

MOD Report – Travis Bolte, Maintenance and Modernization Director, stated maintenance and modernization were ongoing and concrete work would take place at The Oaks and Gulf Breeze. He further reported on water line repairs at Gulf Breeze.

Housing Report – Odelia Williams reported that a community garden was being planned at Holland House in conjunction with community partners Seeding Galveston and Frontera de Salud. She announced GHA's National Night Out would be held October 4 at both Holland House and Gulf Breeze. Public Housing was leased up at 96 percent.

Maria Godwin, HCV Director, stated HCV was leased up at 101% monthly and 100% Year to Date. There were 22 voucher holders seeking housing, and 113 ports including 93 to Texas City.

Human Capital Report – Dr. Fuller of Urban Strategies stated out of 145 assisted families, 132 were receiving services (total of 363 individuals) through the Human Capital program. He stated staff had closed 38 Individual and Family Development Plans and started 40. He further reported working residents' average salary was \$14.69/hour.

The Board adjourned into Executive Session at 10:15 a.m. and reconvened the open meeting at 11:19 a.m.

The Board meeting was adjourned at 11:20 a.m.