



Asheville Housing Authority
Special Meeting of the Board of Commissioners
DRAFT Minutes: March 12, 2025
Meeting Location: 165 S. French Broad Ave., Asheville, 28801

I. Call to order

Interim ED Rhodney Norman called the special meeting to order at 4:32 PM. Roll call was taken, and quorum was confirmed. In attendance were Chair Mychal Bacoate, Vice-Chair Kimberly Collins, Commissioner Sean Aardema, Commissioner Scott Farkas, Commissioner Carol Goins, Commissioner Roy Harris, Commissioner David S. Robinson Sr., Commissioner Kidada Wynn. Attending via Zoom was Commissioner Maggie Slocumb. Also in attendance was Attorney Susan Russo-Klein of Roberts & Stevens, P.A, HACA Interim ED Rhodney Norman, and HACA Executive Assistant Cherin Marmon-Saxe.

II. Approval of Previous Special Meeting Minutes and General Accounts

Chair Bacoate asked for a motion to approve by consent agenda the previous minutes for Special Meeting from July 11, 2024, February 10, 2025 and February 17, 2025. **Commissioner Goins made a motion to approve** all previous meeting minutes as presented. **Commissioner Wynn seconded the motion.** All Ayes, No Nays, the Commissioners unanimously approved the motion.

Chair Bacoate asked for a motion to move the review and approval of the following General Accounts to Closed Session: February 28, 2024, April 24, 2024, July 11, 2024, November 7, 2024, January 20, 2025, February 10, 2025, February 17, 2025. **Commissioner Goins made a motion to approve** moving General Accounts review and approval to closed session. **Commissioner Wynn seconded the motion.** All Ayes, No Nays, the Commissioners unanimously approved the motion.

III. Motion to go into closed session at approximately 5:44 PM

Vice-Chair Collins read the Closed Session preamble. **Commissioner Goins made a motion** to go into closed session to consult with the Authority's attorney in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. §143-318.11(a)(3), and/or (ii) to consider the qualifications, competence, performance, character, fitness, conditions of appointment, or conditions of initial employment of an individual public offer or employee or prospective public officer or employee pursuant to North Carolina General Statute §143-138.11(6). **Commissioner Harris seconded the motion.** All Ayes, No Nays, the Commissioners unanimously approved the motion. Roll call was taken.

See General Account, Closed Session, March 12, 2025.

The Commissioners returned to open session at approximately 6:23 PM

Chair Bacoate asked for a motion to approve the following General Accounts that were presented in Closed Session: February 28, 2024, April 24, 2024, July 11, 2024, November 7, 2024, January 20, 2025, February 10, 2025, February 17, 2025. **Commissioner Robinson made a motion to approve** all previous meeting minutes as presented. **Commissioner Harris seconded the motion.** 8 Ayes, No Nays, 1 abstention; the Commissioner approved the motion by majority.



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IV. Other Business

- **Hiring Committee**

Chair Bacoate noted previous committee included Chairman Jackson, himself, and a staff member. He proposed new committee consisting of Vice-Chair Collins and Commissioners Wynn, Robinson, and Farkas. Commissioner Aardema also volunteered to be a part of the Committee.

- Committee Charge
 - Identifying a search firm and terms of searching for a permanent CEO
 - Permanent CEO to be seated as responsibly and as quickly as possible
- Committee Procedural Discussion

Attorney Susan Russo-Klein confirmed the following:

- Committee meetings will be public, and could be held virtually
- No formal motion required for committee formation as Chair has authority to establish committees

Counsel suggested Joyce Willoughby, HACA Director of HR, would be a logical staff liaison, and followed up with mentioning that attorneys sometimes serve in liaison role for CEO searches, if there existed challenges with a current staff member filling this role.

Commissioner Harris expressed support for using the previous firm, Gans, Gans & Associates, to perform the search again, and proposed a motion. **Commissioner Wynn encouraged** a committee evaluation of the firm due to concerns about the timeframe of the last search and the potential for conflict due to firm's relationships with previous leadership at HACA. **Chair Bacoate suggested** that it become a charge for the Hiring Committee to determine the firm's timeline and capabilities prior to making a final decision. **Commissioner Harris withdrew** the previous motion.

Vice Chair Collins moved that the hiring committee, in consultation with legal counsel, be directed to identify an appropriate search firm for the CEO position, including determination of scope of work, appropriate timeline, and cost estimates, and to present their recommendations to the full Board of Commissioners at the next meeting. **Commissioner Goins seconded.**

All Ayes, No Nays, the Commissioner unanimously approved the motion.

V. Meeting Adjourned 6:40 PM

Commissioner Harris reminded us all about the importance of reading HACA's Mission and Core Values before each meeting.



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Mychal Bacoate, Board Chair

Date:

ATTEST:

Rhodney Norman, Associate Secretary

Date:
