

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF
THE HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE BOROUGH OF
HIGHLAND PARK



The Commissioners of the Housing Authority of the Borough of Highland Park met in a Regular Session in the Community Room of the S.J. Kronman Apartments located at 242 South Sixth Avenue, Highland Park, NJ at 6:30 PM on Nov. 12, 2014, the hour and date duly established for the holding of said meeting.

The meeting was called to order by Chairwoman Sedehi.

Housing Director Blaha read a Notice of Compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act P.L. 1975, C.231 which provided that notice of this meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Housing Authority of the Borough of Highland Park was provided in the following manner:

On December 17, 2013, a copy of the notice of this meeting setting forth the date, time and location of this regular meeting was posted on the Housing Authority's official designated bulletin board located at 242 South Sixth Avenue, Highland Park, NJ, sent to Borough Hall for posting and was faxed to the Home News Tribune and Star Ledger and posted on the website.

The flag was saluted.

Upon roll call, those present and absent were as follows:

PRESENT

ABSENT

Commissioners:

Morgan Chen, Commissioner
Steve Chudnick, Commissioner
Charlotte Quaintance, Commissioner
Evelyn Sedehi, Chairwoman
Diane Reh, Commissioner
Amanda Thomas, Commissioner
Burton Weltman, Commissioner

Council Liaison:
Susan Welkovits

Administration:

Kathy Blaha, Housing Director-WHA
Mike Yannuzzi, Maintenance Manager-WHA

Administration:

Donna Brightman, Executive Director
Runi Sriwardena, Housing Director-HP

Authority General Counsel:

Terrence Corriston, Esq., Breslin & Breslin
(6:43 PM)

Minutes:

A motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held on Oct. 8, 2014 was made by Commissioner Chen and seconded by Commissioner Chudnick.

ROLL CALL: Chen Chudnick Quaintance Reh Sedehi Thomas Weltman
AYES: Chen Chudnick Quaintance Thomas
NAYS: None
Abstain: Reh Sedehi Weltman
Absent: None

The Chair thereupon declared said motion approved.

Public Comment: No public present

Communications:

In regard to Bill Snyder's exam result, Chairwoman Sedehi asked if Bill could be present at a future meeting to elaborate on what his job duties are.

Housing Manager Blaha stated that, unfortunately, Elizabeth Lower planned to be at this meeting but had to attend her children's school conference. Ms. Lower could have given them the particulars of Mr. Snyder's job.

Chairwoman Sedehi asked who Elizabeth was.

Housing Manager Blaha stated that she is the WHA Section 8 Administrator and as such, directly oversees Bill's work.

Commissioner Reh then stated that they would like to meet Bill, especially since he is now a Highland Park employee.

Housing Manager Blaha said that perhaps both Bill and Elizabeth could be available for a future meeting.

Commissioner Sedehi commented that in regard to Runi Sriwardena's memo, she should be aware that confidentiality issues are nothing new to Highland Park!

Reports:

Commissioner Chudnick asked what the RAD award is about.

Chairwoman Sedehi stated that she would have Executive Director Brightman discuss it with him upon her return.

Chairwoman Sedehi stated that in regard to the 5 year plan being prepared by Larry Stecker, she recalled from the commissioner training something about resident input.

Housing Manager Blaha stated that she was quite certain that Ms. Sriwardena had recruited residents for the Resident Advisory Board.

Chairwoman Sedehi asked if the commissioners could attend said meeting.

Housing Manager Blaha responded that she did not know, but would find out and let her know.

Commissioner Weltman said that perhaps we need to revisit the issue of upgrading the pull cord system as it continues to present a problem.

Council Corrison stated that there is no requirement to have pull cords, but if you do, they must be operational. He said that if the location of the pull cords cannot be changed, perhaps a 2 second delay, or whatever is reasonable should be considered.

Chairwoman Sedehi asked Commissioner Chen to please meet with Executive Director Brightman about a solution.

RESOLUTIONS

a) Reso #2014-35 – Adopting Monthly Bill List

Motion moved by Commissioner Reh and seconded by Commissioner Chen to adopt Resolution #2014-35.

ROLL CALL:	Chen Chudnick Quaintance Reh Sedehi Thomas Weltman
AYES:	Chen Chudnick Reh Sedehi Quaintance Thomas Weltman
NAYS:	None
Abstain:	None
Absent:	None

The Chair thereupon declared said motion approved.

Second Public Comment

Juan Ratliff, a resident of Park Terrace, stated that it must be nice to work for the Woodbridge Housing Authority. Every time I turn around, they are taking vacation or having a day off when my shower is not fixed yet! He stated that he is having a social worker help him write a letter to HUD and is going to withhold his rent if it is not done in 30 days.

Chairwoman Sedehi stated that Housing Manager Blaha would check on this tomorrow.

Mr. Ratliff then stated that the sticky thing used for the mice is not doing any good. They need to use steel wool to keep the mice out. He further stated that he is still having issues with neighbors across the street and he is not going over to talk to them anymore.

Housing Manager Blaha stated to Attorney Corrison that this complaint refers to the case faxed to his office for court.

Attorney Corrison stated that, in this case, it is being handled but other tenants cannot be discussed.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Commissioner Chen and seconded by Commissioner Thomas to adjourn at 7:05PM.

All commissioners present voted in favor.

Donna Brightman, Exec. Director/Secretary