



Louisiana Housing Corporation

**An audio-video recording as well as verbatim-transcript of these proceedings
is available upon request by contacting the LHC**

LHC Board of Directors

Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, February 09, 2022 @ 10:30 A.M.

**2415 Quail Drive
V. Jean Butler Board Room, LHC Building
2415 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70808**

Board Members Present

Chairman Anthony P. Marullo, III
Tony Ligi, Official Designee obo Louisiana State Treasurer John M. Schroder
Johnny Berthelot
Alfred E. Harrell, III
Stacy S. Head
Steven P. Jackson
Ericka McIntyre
Willie Rack
Jennifer Vidrine
Richard A. Winder
Steven Hattier
Brandon O. Williams

Board Members Absent

Vice-Chairwoman Tonya P. Mabry

Staff Present

Barry E. Brooks
Bradley Sweazy
Yolanda Martin
Nakesla Blount
Rendell Brown
Louis Russell
Judy White

Carlos Dickerson
Brenda Evans
Leslie Strahan
Plezetta West
Thomas Bates
Shanta Harrison

Others Present

See Sign-In Sheet.

CALL TO ORDER

Board Chairman Anthony P. Marullo, III called the meeting to order at 10:42 a.m. Board Secretary Barry E. Brooks called the roll; there was a quorum.

NEW BOARD MEMBERS OATH OF OFFICE

Swearing-In of **New Board Member Alfred E. Harrell, III** (appointed by Governor; represents the 2nd Congressional District; experience in banking or bonds).

Swearing-In of **New Board Member Steven J. Hattier** (appointed by Governor; an At-Large appointment; experience in banking or bonds).

Swearing-In of **New Board Member Brandon O. Williams** (appointed by Governor; represents the 6th Congressional District; experience in banking or bonds).

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Next item discussed was the January 12, 2022 LHC Full Board of Directors Meeting Minutes.

On a motion by Board Member Tony Ligi and seconded by Board Member Jennifer Vidrine the Minutes of the January 12, 2022 LHC Board of Directors Meeting were unanimously approved, as distributed.

BOARD CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Next Board Chairman Marullo noted the receipt of a written public comment regarding the current Executive Director Search.

Chairman Marullo requested that Secretary Brooks read the document into the Record.

Secretary Brooks read the document (**available upon request**) received from Mr. Felton C. Barber of Scott, Louisiana, in its entirety into the Record.

Thereafter, Chairman Marullo noted the stellar reputation of SSA Consultants, he also sternly noted that the ED Search was a valid and transparent process, that "...there is politics in Louisiana...", that the Search was "...not a sham and is not unethical..." – contrasting to some of the allegations in Mr. Barber's written comments, that he was glad the process allows for the acceptance of public comments, and that the entire Search process had been "transparent and legitimate".

Board Member Steven P. Jackson, Chairman of the Executive Director Search Committee, concurred with Chairman Marullo's comments, noting "...I can vouch for the validity of the process, and we have not seen the list of candidates..." – contrasting to Mr. Barber's written comments alleging there was a pre-selected individual for the Executive Director position, that the process had been very engaged and transparent, and that "...I encourage everyone to trust the process".

Board Member Tony Ligi concurred in the aforementioned comments, noted that he fully supports the manner in which the Search has been conducted by Board Chairman Marullo and SSA Consultants, that "...I don't know who Mr. Joshua Hollins is..." as referenced in Mr. Barber's written comments as the pre-selected next LHC Executive Director, and that the Board would select an Executive Director "...that will move this Agency forward".

Board Member Alfred E. Harrell, III, noted that as an appointed member of the EDSC "...I've been involved from the beginning and the integrity of the Search process is intact...", and that he disagreed with the statements and allegations in Mr. Barber's written comments.

Thereafter, Board Member Jackson moved and was seconded by Board Chairman Marullo, to Amend the Order of the Agenda so that item #11 "Update from Search Firm- SSA Consultants" would be discussed next, and providing for other matters in connection therewith, was moved to debate. There being no further discussion, opposition, or public comment, a vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

UPDATE FROM SEARCH FIRM – SSA CONSULTANTS

Dr. Christel Slaughter addressed the Board, noting that they had received a "wide variety of comments and public input", that there was a consensus for someone with "high ethics" and that affordable housing experience would be a plus, that the Focus Groups were confident in LHC staff's ability to handle the programs, and that the next Executive Director should have "strong leadership background" and a "temperament and winning personality", that she had not reviewed the entire list of applicants but was very assured by the quality of the ones reviewed, that she had concurred with LHC Executive Counsel Yolanda Martin and that the applicants names could not be held confidential, that she was working on a timeline for submission of a semi-finalists to present to the EDSC for review and thereafter recommendations to the Board for finalists interviews, that she would be recommending to the Board that they interview two (2) finalists, and that anyone still wishing to provide comments could send them to LASEARCH@CONSULTSSA.COM

Board Member Richard A. Winder inquired if Dr. Slaughter was satisfied with the pool of candidates.

Dr. Slaughter noted that she trusts her staff's current review and analysis, and that she was confident in the "...good pool of candidates".

EDSC Chairman Jackson noted that there had been one (1) in-person comment during the previous day's Public Input Session held at LHC, and that Dr. Slaughter had presented a very thorough update on the Search process.

On a motion by Board Member Steven P. Jackson and seconded by Board Member Willie Rack, the Board moved to return to the prescribed Order of the Agenda; and providing for other matters in connection therewith, was moved to debate. There being no further discussion, opposition, or public comment, a vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

LHC INTERIM-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

LHC IED Bradley R. Sweazy assured everyone that that ED Search process was a fair and transparent process and that he supports and encourages public comments, that LHC was financially sound and operating efficiently and was "...in the green", and that a Budget and Finance Committee meeting was being planned for March.

Chairman Marullo thanked IED Sweazy for his leadership, and implored the patience from the public during the current transition.

Board Member Jackson inquired as to the status of LHC being able to LIVESTREAM meetings.

Secretary Brooks noted that all Board-related Meetings and Committee Meetings that had been held in 2022 had been via LIVESTREAM, and that the audio-video recordings were available on the LHC website.

Board Chairman Marullo inquired if anyone present wished to have a moment to provide any public comments on any matters to the Board.

Chairman Marullo requested that the Record reflect no public comments were received from any of the public that were present.

AGENDA ITEM #8 – Grove Place Project

Next item discussed was regarding Grove Place Project

The matter were introduced by Board Chairman Marullo.

Additional information was provided by Louis Russell, LHC Director of Housing Development, noting staff was recommending approval thereof, and that the matter was on the upcoming week's State Bond Commission Agenda for approval too.

Board Member Jennifer Vidrine inquired as to the reason for the additional costs.

DHD Russell noted that the Total Development Costs had increased by \$748K.

Board Member Head requested a timeline of "...what happened here" from start to finish.

Additional information thereafter was provided by Mr. Paul Irons, Developer of the project.

There were additional discussions and comments provided by LHC Staff and the Board Members with Mr. Irons on the matter.

Lastly, Board Member Vidrine thanked Mr. Irons for being "proactive" during the pre-construction phases and or his insight.

On a motion by Board Member Johnny Berthelot and seconded by Board Member Stacy S. Head, the supplemental resolution accepting the proposal of JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A. for the purchase of an additional One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000) above the previously approved Six Million Six Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$6,600,000) Multifamily Housing Revenue Bonds for Grove Place Project located on a square city block at the corner of Earhart Boulevard and Monroe Street, New Orleans, Orleans Parish, Louisiana 70118 in one or more series to finance the acquisition, construction, rehabilitation, and equipping of a multifamily housing development within the State of Louisiana; fixing the parameter terms of said bonds and otherwise providing with respect to said bonds; and providing for other matters in connection therewith, was moved to debate. There being no further discussion, opposition, or public comment, a vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM #9 – Sea Holly Grande

Next item discussed was regarding Sea Holly Grande.

The matter were introduced by Board Chairman Marullo.

Additional information was provided by Louis Russell, LHC Director of Housing Development, noting staff was recommending approval thereof.

On a motion by Board Member Steven P. Jackson and seconded by Board Member Alfred E. Harrell, III, the resolution authorizing a change in the site, and property description for Sea Holly Grande #2020-037 Project, located at 4440 North Blvd. Baton Rouge, Louisiana, East Baton Parish, authorizing the Corporation, staff and counsel to prepare the forms of such documents and agreements as may be necessary

to allocate Credits to such facilities; and providing for other matters in connection therewith, was moved to debate. There being no further discussion, opposition, or public comment, a vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM #10 – Holly Square I and Holly Square II

Next item discussed was regarding Holly Square I and Holly Square II.

The matter were introduced by Board Chairman Marullo.

Additional information was provided by Louis Russell, LHC Director of Housing Development, noting staff was recommending approval thereof.

On a motion by Board Member Steven P. Jackson and seconded by Board Member Willie Rack, the resolution authorizing a changes in the site designs from (7) buildings and comprised of 40 units each buildings to (1) building comprised of 36 units for each project and a community center for Holly Square I and Holly Square II, both located in Tangipahoa Parish, Louisiana; authorizing the Corporation staff and counsel to prepare the forms of such documents and agreements as may be necessary to allocate Credits to such facilities; and providing for other matters in connection therewith, was moved to debate. There being no further discussion, opposition, or public comment, a vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Marullo welcomed the experiences and backgrounds of the New Board Members.

In conclusion, Chairman Marullo thanked everyone for their attendance and participation in the Board Meetings, as well as the various Committee Meetings.

There being no other matters to discuss, Board Member Steven P. Jackson offered a motion for adjournment that was seconded by Board Member Willie Rack. There being no discussion or opposition, the motion passed unanimously.

The Full Board meeting adjourned at 11:59 a.m.

Chairman

Secretary