



Sarasota Housing Authority
269 South Osprey Avenue
Sarasota, Florida 34236

Board Meeting
June 23, 2021
4:30 P.M.

PRE-MEETING DISCUSSION RE: MCCOWN TOWER PRESERVATION: Mr. Russell addressed a group of Residents regarding the plan of action for the McCown Tower renovation that is planned to take place in 2022. Questions were addressed and answered. Relocation options that will be available to the residents were discussed and it was stressed that no one will be asked to permanently move unless they choose that option. Additional meetings will be set up to allow for resident input and to keep all informed of the development progress.

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** Chair John Colón called the meeting of the Sarasota Housing Authority Board of Commissioners to order at 5:01 pm.
- II. **INVOCATION**
- III. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- IV. **ROLL CALL**

Commissioners Present: Chair John Colón, Commissioners Valerie Buchand, Deborah Sargent, David Morgan and Ernestine Taylor and G. Duane Finger (Via Zoom)

Commissioners Not Present: Vice Chair Jack Meredith

SHA Personnel: William Russell and Andrea Keddell (Michelle Young Stears for Special Presentation)

Attendees: Attorney Ric Gilmore, Joe Chambers, City Commissioner Jen Ahearn-Koch and Tarnisha Cliatt (Kay Daniels for Special Presentation)
- V. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

SHA Board Meeting – May 26, 2021: Chair Colón put the minutes from the May 26, 2021 Board Meeting up for approval. Commissioner Buchand commented that she has some revisions to the board minutes on items that she believes were said by Commissioner Sargent, and not her, but that she needs to review the recording before she submits them. Commissioner Buchand made a motion to approve the minutes with the necessary corrections and to have them brought back before the board with the corrections that she will be submitting. Attorney Gilmore advised that Commissioner Buchand submit the corrections to Mr. Russell 1st so he can get them approved by Commissioner Sargent before amending the minutes. Commissioner Morgan seconded the motion.

 - Motion was voted on and passed unanimously (5-0). Commissioner Finger voted Present.

VI. SPECIAL PRESENTATION

A. After School Program Recognition

- Kay Daniels, a schoolteacher from Booker Middle School who tutors and works with Sarasota Housing Authority children at its After School Program for the past 6 years, was presented with an Excellence in Education Service Crystal Award with a picture of her students in recognition of her continued outstanding and dedicated efforts in advancing the Sarasota Housing Authority students' academic achievement.
- Michelle Stears provided an overview of Ms. Daniels efforts, even during the COVID pandemic, stressing her continued love, support, education, instruction and guidance for SHA kids.
- Ms. Daniels graciously accepted the award and stressed that education is the key and that every child needs their education and someone that is dedicated to this no matter what zip code they reside in.

VII. PUBLIC PRESENTATION

- A. Donna Rochleau stated that the loudspeaker announcements that come into the units should only be urgent and/or important. They are receiving too many frivolous announcements. She provided an example that an insurance agent was allowed to provide a sales pitch over the loud speaker.

VIII. RESOLUTIONS – ACCEPTED BY CONSENT

- A. Res 21-11: HCV Admin Plan Revisions
- B. Res 21-12: Emergency Housing Voucher MOU
- C. Res 21-13: Amended Emergency Preparedness Plan
- D. Res 21-14: Amaryllis Park Place II Closing Approval

-
- Commissioner Buchand made a motion to accept the consent agenda. Commissioner Finger seconded the motion. The motion was voted on and passed unanimously.

IX. OLD BUSINESS

A. Amaryllis Park Place II (Courts) Name Discussion

- Commissioner Morgan stated this was brought up at the Board Retreat on June 5, 2021 and it was discussed to select an original name, but there was no decision made.
- Discussion took place and suggestions were made. Mr. Chambers addressed the board stating that there was some urgency to select a name before closing so the documents can reflect the correct property name and a name that differentiates the project from the senior project.
- It was brought up that there are Cypress trees on the property. Cypress Square was suggested. Attorney Gilmore added that they'll need to confirm that the name is available.
- Commissioner Morgan made a motion to approve Cypress Square. Commissioner Finger seconded the motion. The motion was voted on and passed (5-1) to name the development Cypress Square. Commissioner Buchand opposed.

B. McCown Parking Expansion

- Mr. Russell provided information on a proposed parking garage connected to units built in the McCown parking lot. The City is in need of additional parking and is motivated to assist in financing the project that would provide for some public parking for the city and additional units, covered parking for SHA resident and income for the property. The garage would be professionally managed, and SHA would own the building.
- Additional discussion took place about a 5-story building where SHA would keep the revenue. The design would have greenery to make the view attractive to residents that reside on the lower floors.
- Commissioner Morgan made a motion to allow the President & CEO to get more information on the proposed project. Commissioner Finger seconded the motion.
 - Commissioner Colón added that he would like to have a board member involved in talks with the city. Commissioner Buchand expressed an interest in being involved in every aspect of these meetings. Commissioner Colón stated that Jack Meredith may be an appropriate person to represent the board, given his architectural background. It was discussed that more than one board member can be in attendance but that the meeting(s) would just need to be noticed. Commissioner Morgan agreed that he'd like the commission represented at the meeting(s) and to ensure that those commissioners that are interested be included.
- The motion was voted on and passed unanimously.

X. NEW BUSINESS

- A. None

XI. PROGRAM UPDATES – ACCEPTED BY CONSENT

- A. Monthly Financial Statements
- B. Board Committee Reports
- C. Housing Voucher Report
- D. Housing Management Reports
- E. Capital Fund Program Report
- F. Resident Services Monthly Report

-
- Commissioner Buchand made a motion to accept the Program Updates Consent Agenda. Commissioner Morgan seconded the motion. The motion was voted on and passed unanimously.

XII. COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCEMENTS / COMMENTS

- A. Commissioner Buchand inquired about the organizational changes mentioned in the memo from the board packet and what is being done about Ms. Sherri Champagne. She further stated she feels she should be fired from the organization.
 - Attorney Gilmore advised the board not to discuss personnel matters at an open forum meeting and reminded the board that they have one employee, the President and CEO.
 - Commissioner Buchand maintains she knows Mr. Russell is their only employee but that she's trying to help get the authority on the right track and clear up the hostile environment.

- Attorney Gilmore reiterated that discussing the organizational chart in general is acceptable but it's not advisable to talk about individual personnel matters or a hostile work environment. Those topics should be dealt with on its own in an appropriate private setting, one on one with the President and CEO.
- Mr. Russell reported that the 2 property managers, Section 8 Director and Resident Services VP are now all reporting to him on the organizational chart.
- B. Commissioner Morgan reports that he attended the Juneteenth Festival on MLK over the weekend and that it was a nice event.
- C. Commissioner Sargent reports that Resident Council website (www.SHAARC.org) is still being worked on. She thanked the residents that showed up at the Board Meeting and reported that her office hours at the Resident Council Office are M-W-F from 9 am-12 pm.
- D. Commissioner Colón reports that he hopes to see harmony at the Housing Authority and that employees should take any issues to Mr. Russell and the Board will do their best to make sure he takes care of any issues they may have.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

The Sarasota Housing Authority Board of Commissioners meeting was adjourned at 6:03 pm.