



Sarasota Housing Authority  
269 South Osprey Avenue  
Sarasota, Florida 34236

Board Meeting  
January 18, 2023  
4:30 P.M.

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** Vice Chair Ernestine Taylor called the meeting of the Sarasota Housing Authority Board of Commissioners to order at 4:36 pm.
- II. **INVOCATION**
- III. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- IV. **ROLL CALL**

Commissioners Present: Vice Chair Ernestine Taylor, Commissioner John Colón, Commissioner Deborah Sargent, Commissioner Mark Vengroff, Commissioner Carolyn Mason (via Zoom) and Commissioner Duane Finger (via Zoom)

Commissioners Not Present: Chair Jack Meredith (Excused)

Attendees: Attorney Rhonda Stringer, City Commissioner Jen Ahearn-Koch, Valerie Buchand, Agnes Kirkland and Rachel Johnson

SHA Personnel: William Russell, Rick Toney and Andrea Keddell
- V. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
  - A. SHA Regular Board Meeting – November 30, 2022: Vice Chair Taylor put up the minutes from the November 30, 2022, Regular Board Meeting for approval. Commissioner Colón made a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Vengroff seconded the motion.
    - City Commissioner Jen Ahearn-Koch requested it be noted on future minutes when she's not able to attend meetings so there's a record of her attendance.
      - Motion was voted on and passed unanimously. (Commissioner Mason voted Present)
- VI. **SPECIAL PRESENTATION**
  - A. Recognition of Former Commissioners
    - Valerie Buchand was presented a plaque recognizing her service on the SHA Board of Commissioners for over 14 years as well as serving 1 term as Board Vice Chair. Vice Chair Taylor thanked Ms. Buchand for contributions to the board during her past service. Photo was taken with Commissioners.
- VII. **PUBLIC PRESENTATION**
  - A. Ms. Valerie Buchand addressed the board and requested:
    - Written responses be sent out when public comments come before the board.
    - A meeting be scheduled to finalize the Resident Council MOU with Sarasota Housing Authority by Monday and to have it signed by February 3, 2023.

**VIII. RESOLUTIONS**

- A. Res 23-01: Approval of Annual Plan/5-Year Action Plan (CFP FY21, 22 and 23)
  - B. Res 23-02: CFP Budget Amendment FY2021
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- Commissioner Sargent pulled Resolution A. 23-01: Approval of Annual Plan/5-Year Action Plan.
- Commissioner Finger made a motion to accept the remaining consent agenda item, B. Resolutions 23-02: CFP Budget Amendment FY2021. Commissioner Mason seconded the motion.
  - The motion was voted on and passed unanimously.

Discussion for A. Resolution 23-01 Approval of Annual Plan/5-Year Action Plan:

- Commissioner Sargent reported that the Resident Advisory Board (RAB) provided comments to the Annual Plan and they would like to have their responses to the SHA comments in red put on record:
  - RE: MOU - Ms. Buchand addressed the MOU requests above in her public presentation.
  - RE: Council Representation at Meetings - The Council wants to have a representation not just at bi-annual meetings and they need to get more residents involved in Resident Interest meetings and to have more Board attendance at the Resident Interest meetings.
  - RE: SHA assisting Council to obtain additional funding outside of the \$15 per unit HUD requirement - The Council states they are allowed to go after grants within the HUD guidelines and are asking that SHA help assure applications are put together properly.
  - RE: Empowerment Center at Courts - Concern was stated by SHA about volunteer, staffing and licensing of childcare facility. The Council has ability to partner with other agencies to staff this center and it will not be volunteers only.
  - RE: Mutual Respect between SHA & Council - The Council added they've been trying to do this and it continues to be a challenge.
  - RE: Council request to have their comments included in the Annual Plan document - The Council maintains it needs to be in the document. Mr. Russell explained that under C1 of the HUD form it directs the Housing Authority to add the comments as an attachment to the Annual Plan, along with the Authority's analysis, which is what the proposed document is.
- Commissioner Colón asked for clarification that they're approving the document but not that they agree with all the comments and plan of action. Mr. Russell responded that the comments are being submitted but that nothing is being adopted.
- Commissioner Sargent made a motion to approve Resolution 23-01 as it is written. Commissioner Finger seconded the motion.
  - The motion was voted on and passed unanimously.

**IX. OLD BUSINESS**

- A. Board Retreat – January 28, 2023, 8:00 am to Noon at Lofts on Lemon, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor Rec Room.
  - Requested agenda items should be submitted to Mr. Russell or Chair Meredith.

**X. NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Mr. Russell reported Lofts on Lemon Phase II did not get funded in this round of Tax Credit applications. Another Sarasota project, for CASL and Blue Sky, did get 9% Tax Credit funding.
- B. Mr. Russell went over the McCown Tower exterior paint options that were discussed at the last Development Committee meeting. A handout was passed out to the board including an image showing the back of the building, as requested by the committee.

**XI. PROGRAM UPDATES – ACCEPTED BY CONSENT**

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

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

**XII. COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCEMENTS / COMMENTS**

- A. Former Commissioner, Valerie Buchand, requested to address the board and requested to have the Resident Council put on future agendas so they have an agenda item allowing them to bring items before the board. She also reported that Janie’s Garden has lost another Property Manager and a maintenance staff member.
  - Commissioner Colón responded that losing staff in this economy is to be expected if the pay is not high enough.
- B. Mr. Russell announced to the board that the next Board Meeting will take place a week early, on February 15, 2023, since Mr. Russell will be at a FAHRO Executive Director meeting the following week.
- C. Mr. Russell reported that he has a meeting with representatives from the Sarasota Police Department to discuss vandalism taking place at the Courts and Children First sites. There was also a fence torn down by some children at King Stone. NDC has put in a report that there have been kids throwing rocks at his truck and Amaryllis Park Place has reported rocks being thrown into their parking lot as well and the gate being jammed up. Letters will be drawn up and sent to those families that have children involved.
  - Commissioner Colón reports that this vandalism is the reason he wanted a real wall and not a fence put up at SHA’s new developments.

**XIII. ADJOURNMENT**

The Sarasota Housing Authority Board of Commissioners meeting was adjourned at 5:13 pm.