

Southwest Home Equity Assurance Program
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
February 11, 2019
6:30 pm

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Nice began the regular meeting at 6:46 p.m. Due to the absence of Commissioner Tully, Chairman Nice asked Vice-Chairman Kurtovich to take roll call. Both commissioners noted that there was lack of quorum and so “no vote” would be taken though we would still go through the agenda as followed.

COMMISSIONER IN ATTENDANCE:

Ray Nice
John Kurtovich

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

Chris Koczvara
John Tully

ALSO PRESENT:

Victoria Gaspar, Executive Director

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Chairman Nice called for everyone present to review the minutes. In the minutes, the Chairman and Vice-Chairman agreed that any issues from the last meeting would be tabled till next meeting and no changes thus far.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Chairman Nice introduced the financial report. On behalf of Mrs. Bekele, Ms. Gaspar went over the financial report and explained, to the best of her knowledge on the variances per line items. While explaining a variance, she mentioned audit recommendations that would be in place in the future and would utilize more of the technology budget once SWHEAP solidified a strategy. As the Commission and Executive Director went down the line, there was a question regarding legal fees, and it was noted that there would be a budget adjustment. There were a few questions regarding the total expenses within parentheses and the format of the budget, but those comments were tabled till the next meeting for Mrs. Bekele.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

Chairman Nice spoke about the NHS gala and the purchase of a table or tickets. Given that this is tradition of SWHEAP to contribute in some way, Chairman Nice suggested we could vote electronically for how we were going to participate this year.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Ms. Gaspar introduced her report by providing the Commission with the usual general updates on the program regarding registrations, home improvement loans open and the total of claims paid. She also explained to the Commission that she met with a former housing Commissioner now housing consultant to answer some questions regarding a case study he was writing about. She also informed the Commission of SWHEAP's prospective involvement in a new program called System of Care in Chicago Lawn. This program would introduce SWHEAP to other social service programs targeted at 3 schools within the district but concentrated in Chicago Lawn. Ms. Gaspar explained that the partnership would make our presence known on the eastern part of our district as well as partnering up for a good cause. Chairman Nice mentioned the use of real estate attorneys and realtors and making sure that we are immersed in every zip code within our boundaries. Ms. Gaspar also gave a brief summary on marketing window signs; spoke over contacts she's made with CAPS officers to which Vice Chairman Kurtovich offered insight and specified particular people she should contact. Vice Chairman Kurtovich also asked about the information on the back side of the window signs and its relevancy. Ms. Gaspar continued her report providing a summary of the numbers on last year's big mailing and changing that item this year. She also provided updates on the email newsletters that went out and hinted at a new proposal. Ms. Gaspar also informed the Commission of a member who had potentially violated the statute. There were questions surrounding the specific case but given the plethora of questions as well as limited attendance, it would be brought up again at the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Due to the lack of quorum and timing, the presentation scheduled was tabled for another time.

OLD BUSINESS

Following after the Executive Director's report, the meeting took a turn into discussing the services of Neil Renzi & Associates. There was a plethora of questions the Commissioners had regarding protocol and office procedures with the office of Mr. Renzi. The Commissioners present asked to see invoices stemming a year from Mr. Renzi's office to have their questions answered and seek clarification on a number of matters. It was in agreement that there would be a continuance on the discussion at the next meeting. Vice Chairman Kurtovich did have a question regarding items for the Appraisal Committee and ensuring that we have future potential appraisers to hire on board. Vice Chairman Kurtovich also sought clarification on a previous matter regarding an increase price for 2-4 units from our regular program appraisers. These issues were to be discussed again in the following meeting. Next on the agenda was selecting a building security camera system and officiating the design plans for the upcoming mailer. However, they too were to be tabled till next time. It was a consensus among all in attendance to continue revamping our marketing efforts.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Nice adjourned the meeting at 7:59 pm.

Regards,

John Tully
Secretary