

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE
CITY OF OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA
HELD WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9, 2003

The Oakland Housing Authority Board of Commissioners convened a Special Meeting /Work Session in the Community Room, Tassafaronga Village, 929 – 85th Avenue, Oakland, California on the above date. Chair Richard E. Winnie called the meeting to order at 12:18 p.m.

I. Pledge of Allegiance

II. Roll Call

Commissioners present were Moses L. Mayne, Jr., Marion Mills, Jacqueline Taylor and Chair Richard E. Winnie. Commissioner Teresa Limon was absent and Commissioners Alfred Lee and Melanie M. Shelby were excused.

III. Modifications to the Agenda

There were none.

IV. New Business

A. Brief introduction to the Tassafaronga Community. (Tape Side A – Queue 1-115)

Mr. Jon Gresley, Executive Director, called upon Ms. Patricia Ison, Director of Resident and Community Services Department, to give a brief overview of the Tassafaronga Community.

Ms. Ison said the Tassafaronga Community is comprised of 87 units and houses about 262 individuals. Ms. Ison mentioned the youth activities in the community sponsored by the City of Oakland Parks Department, Tassafaronga Community Center that is next door to and on site by the Stanford University for elementary school age girls. She also mentioned the family activities including supportive services assessments, and weekly outreach by the University of California, Berkeley Families Facing the Future with HOPE Nutritional support program. Ms. Ison noted the civic involvement activities in the community. Ms. Ison said that two residents are members of the Resident Advisory Board (RAB), and she acknowledged Jacqueline Taylor's membership on the

Authority's Board of Commissioners.

Ms. Ison introduced guest speakers. The first was Mr. Felton Taylor, the site director of the City of Oakland Parks Department, Tassafaronga Community Center. Mr. Taylor mentioned various after-school programs designed to help the kids from 81st Street to 98th Street. Mr. Taylor also mentioned recreational activities for adults. The second speaker was Ms. Rosa Castellanos, a Tassafaronga resident, who said she always feels safe living in the community.

Commissioner Taylor also stated she is glad to be a resident of the community and is satisfied with her apartment.

B. Briefing on the Oakland Housing Authority Police Department. (Tape Sides A & B – Queue 116-945)

Mr. Gresley called upon Mr. Carel Duplessis, Director of Police Department, for a presentation.

Mr. Duplessis provided a background overview of the Authority's Police Department. He noted that the Department has a "Community Policing" approach, which is a different mission from the Oakland Police Department. He said that the Police Department is recognized by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA) and that it has authority throughout the State of California. Mr. Duplessis discussed the current budgeted staff (sworn and non-sworn staff) in the department. He discussed the functions of the department focused on providing a safe and secure environment, not only for the housing residents but also for the employees. Mr. Duplessis described the effectiveness of the department in maintaining peace and order in the environment. He noted that the department's average response time for non-emergency calls is 29 minutes, while the average response time for emergency calls is 4 minutes.

Mr. Duplessis continued his presentation by discussing the department's functions in support of other Authority's departments: Housing Management, Leased Housing, Resident and Community Services, Human Resources and Facilities Management. Mr. Duplessis discussed the goals of the department with emphasis on income-generating programs, creating safety materials, and continuing the reduction of crime at all the Authority's sites. He also noted the different activities the department provides for the residents, especially for children. Examples of those activities are fishing trips, field trips, sponsoring baseball teams and taking kids to the different ball games.

The Commissioners asked questions during the course of the presentation. Mr. Duplessis provided answers to the questions posed. Mr. Gresley and Mr. Jones also provided additional answers to some of the questions raised.

Chair Winnie said that since all the Commissioners must be involved in the discussions of Items C and D, and since Commissioner Alfred Lee has done initial work on Item C, he would ask that both items be carried over to a future Board meeting.

Commissioner Mayne made a motion to put Items C and D on the agenda for the Board special/workshop meeting of May 14, 2003. Commissioner Taylor seconded the motion and all the Commissioners present voted unanimous approval. **(Tape Side B – Queue 946-017)**

Chair Winnie indicated that he needed to be excused and turned the gavel over to Commissioner Mayne.

V. **Recognition of people wishing to address the Commission. (Tape Side B – Queue 018-143)**

Commissioner Mayne called upon the first speaker, Jacquee Castain, resident of 1633, 84th Avenue, Oakland. Ms. Castain extended her thanks to the Board and staff for holding a meeting in the community. Ms. Castain would like the Authority to build housing units in the neighborhood for seniors. She said she has been asking for the turnkey that is next to her home to be changed into senior housing. Ms. Castain expressed concerns about the turnkeys in her neighborhood. There are housing units in her neighborhood that have residents who are not legally registered as tenants.

The second speaker was Ms. Lana Spencer, Section 8 resident and a member of the Resident Advisory Board (RAB). Ms. Spencer informed the Board that she attended a conference titled “Ready Work Grow” on March 19 – 23, 2003, sponsored by J.P. Morgan Chase and the Enterprise Foundation. Ms. Spencer was proud to tell during the conference about the Oakland Housing Authority, the Resident Advisory Board and its functions that create positive effects on the Housing Authority. Ms. Spencer indicated that she was proud to tell the Board that she was voted the “friendliest person” at the conference.

VI. **Written Communications (Tape Side B – Queue 144-240)**

Mr. Gresley suggested that since the fourth Monday in May is Memorial Day,

the regular Board meeting could be held on Monday, May 19th. The workshop meeting will be held on May 14th. He said that the packet for May 19th would be delivered on May 13th.

Mr. Gresley reported that on Wednesday, May 28th, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. will be the groundbreaking ceremony for the Mandela Gateway development. HUD Assistant Secretary Michael Liu would be a speaker at the event. He said that some dignitaries like Congress Member Barbara Lee, Senator Barbara Boxer, Senator Diane Feinstein, State Senator Don Perata and Oakland Mayor Jerry Brown were invited to the ceremony.

Mr. Gresley reported that the NAHRO Summer Conference would be held in Tampa, Florida on July 24 – 27, 2003.

VII. Adjournment

Without any further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:55 p.m.

Chair

Secretary