

WINOOSKI HOUSING AUTHORITY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING

4:30 P.M.
October 18, 2023

Community Room
83 Barlow Street

MINUTES

Present: Commissioner Potvin; Commissioner Raymond; Commissioner Mace, Commissioner Al Zubaidy; Commissioner Owen

Staff: ED Decarreau; Business Manager Beaulieu

Meeting was called to order by Chair Potvin at 4:35 PM

1. Public Comment

No members of the public present

2. Approve Agenda – No Changes Proposed by Staff

No Changes

3. Approve Minutes of August 16, 2023 and September 21, 2023

MOTION to approve minutes of August 16, 2023 meeting by Commissioner Mace, Seconded by Commissioner Owen.

MOTION carries 4 – 0. 1 abstention

MOTION to approve minutes of September 21, 2023 meeting by Commissioner Mace, Seconded by Commissioner Raymond.

MOTION carries 3 – 0. 2 abstention

4. Introduce Dionne Beaulieu – Business Manager

BM Beaulieu covered her background and was welcomed to the position by Board members.

5. Update Board on Projects (see Meeting Notes – include a report on the tenant education sessions from 10/ 14 & 15, 2023)

- a. Hiring
- b. Vermont Language Justice Center
- c. Winooski Housing Roundtable

6. Parking Policy – Approval

Commissioner Mace noted that the language for the handbook should be translated as needed. ED Decarreau acknowledged that this was part of the plan.

MOTION to adopt the Parking Policy as submitted by Commissioner Owen. Seconded by Commissioner Mace.

MOTION carries 5 - 0

7. Tenant Charges Policy – Discussion

ED Decarreau noted that this policy is in its early state and in need of feedback from the Board before moving further.

Commissioner Mace made recommendations to revisit the language and terminology used in the policy and submitted suggestions and input in writing.

This policy will be presented in its updated form at the November meeting.

8. Meeting with City - Schedule

ED Decarreau noted that City staff are difficult to schedule within the times available for the Commission. Much of the conversation regarding housing is being referred to the City's Housing Initiative Director with a note on the housing study that is forthcoming.

The Board is concerned about a potential lack of commitment to affordable family housing in the City's future. It was noted that in the past, there was a sense on the part of policy-makers that the City "has done its share" of accepting affordable housing and that focus should be switched to properties that would raise the Grand List more than affordable units.

The Board is also concerned that informal statement made by the staff at USCRI indicate that they are no longer trying to settle newly arriving families in Winooski because of push back by the City staff regarding sub-standard housing.

ED Decarreau will reach out to the City to try to establish a meeting with City staff including the Mayor and City Manager as well as the Housing Initiative Director.

9. Schedule Organizational Meeting

Meeting will be scheduled for January 2024.

10. Adjourn

MOTION to adjourn at 5:40 pm by Commissioner Owen. Seconded by Commissioner Mace.

MOTION carries 5 - 0