

**WINNEBAGO COUNTY HOUSING AUTHORITY  
OCTOBER 18, 2018  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**Call to Order, Roll Call, Pledge of Allegiance**

Vice Chairman Getty called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Following the call to order, roll call was taken.

The following Board Members were present:

Present:	Vice Chairman Dina M. Getty Commissioner Alanna D. Conard Commissioner Pearl Hawks Commissioner James E. Hughes Commissioner Tasha Reddic
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Absent:	Chairman Fred S. Wescott Commissioner Ron Ballard
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Also present: Executive Director Alan Zais, Assistant Executive Director Felicia Davis, Finance Director Vickie Huwe and James R. Pirages of the law firm of Hinshaw & Culbertson LLP. Also present were FSS Coordinator Patricia "Trish" Carter and recent FSS Program graduate, Lokia Miller.

Following roll call, Vice Chairman Getty led those in attendance in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Changes to Agenda**

None.

**Public Comments**

FSS Coordinator Trish Carter introduced recent FSS Program graduate Lokia Miller. Trish Carter explained her job duties as FSS Program Coordinator; she noted that she assists in keeping participants "on track", addressing their concerns and changes and assuring that the escrow accumulates during the five (5) year duration of each participant's participation in the Program. She said that FSS Program participants have to set interim goals as well as final goals. In order to graduate from the Program, they must also have suitable employment and be off of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) for six (6) months and have completed their goals. As a result of her participation in the Program, Lokia Miller received a check for \$7,424.22.

Lokia Miller then addressed the Board. She noted that she is saving up her money to purchase her own home and is getting set up to do so through the HomeStart Program. She said she recently finished Cosmetology School and could not have accomplish these things but for her involvement in the FSS Program -- which she said gave her the discipline that she needed to

achieve her goals. She said that her next step is to move to her own residence. She thanked Alan and Trish for their efforts. She said that a lot of people had told her that the FSS Program was false and she has shown them otherwise. She said that she was allowed to live for the last ten (10) years in a beautiful home (she was part of the Hope VI Program from its outset) and she appreciates all of the assistance that she has been given by the WCHA.

Vice-Chairman Getty commended Lokia on her achievements and complimented her on the energy that she demonstrated in her comments. Commissioner Hughes suggested that Lokia accompany Executive Director Alan Zais to his upcoming presentation to the Winnebago County Board so that the Winnebago County Board members may hear her story. He said that her statement was a wonderful testimony to Rockford and Winnebago County. Lokia indicated that she would be happy to join Alan for that meeting.

### **Executive Director's Report**

Executive Director Alan Zais noted that he had previously submitted his written report to the Board that accompanied the board packet.

Alan noted that the Moving to Work (MTW) Program notice is finally out. He said that some of the requirements of the Program are a little different. He mentioned that there is a 90-day period for the WCHA to submit its application, certification, research survey and Board resolution. He said that he hoped to have a resolution ready for the November 2018 WCHA Board Meeting and would provide further explanation regarding MTW at that meeting. Alan indicated that the WCHA is in the "first cohort" of applicants for MTW but also noted that the WCHA will want to apply as part of the MTW "regional program" - - so the plan is to apply for both the first cohort as well as for the regional program. He said that it is no secret at HUD that the WCHA is interested in applying and that the HUD Regional Administrator, Joe Galvan, has encouraged WCHA to apply for the MTW Program (including the regional program).

Alan indicated that he had also submitted a report to Mayor McNamara and Chairman Haney about the Fresno, California housing model. Alan noted his belief that this issue will be revisited in the future in conjunction with a discussion about the RHA. Alan said that he had also explained to the Fresno Housing officials the WCHA's work with the Boone County Housing Authority, Freeport and other programs and advised the Commissioners that the Fresno officials liked the WCHA model as well.

### **Consent Agenda**

A motion to approve the items on the Consent Agenda was made by Commissioner Hughes. That motion was seconded by Commissioner Hawks. The items on the Consent Agenda were approved by unanimous roll call vote of the five (5) Commissioners present with none against and two (2) Commissioners absent.

### **Financial Report**

Finance Director Vickie Huwe noted that things are going smoothly; she said that the WCHA has less cash than she would like but also noted that the administrative and management fees received from the Freeport RAD Program have been helpful to the WCHA's financial position.

**Old Business**

None.

**New Business**

None.

**Commissioner Comments**

None.

**Executive Session**

None.

**Action Taken from Executive Session**

None.

**Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Commissioner Hawks and that motion was seconded by Commissioner Reddic. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote of all five (5) Commissioners present with none against and two (2) Commissioners absent. The meeting adjourned at 5:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Alanna Conard, Recording Secretary