

SUMMARY MINUTES - DRAFT

BROWARD HOUSING COUNCIL
Friday, August 23, 2024 10:00 AM
Broward County Government Center East, Room 430, Fort Lauderdale, FL

Board Members Present

Ajibola Balogun	Marcia Barry-Smith, Chair	Michele Collie
Parnell Joyce	Commissioner Hazelle Rogers	Teneshia Taylor

Board Members Absent

Beth Daly	Luke Harrigan	Debra Hixon
Christopher Krzemien, Vice-Chair	Nathan Perlmutter	Ashley Roche
Ralph Stone		

County Staff

Jo Sesodia, UPD	Annika Ashton, CAO	Keith Darby, UPD
Sue Carrano, UPD		

Other Attendees

Denise Brown, LifeNet4Families	Susan Spragg, Ft. Lauderdale AHAC
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1) CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

At 10:15 AM a quorum was not present; however, Jo Sesodia, UPD Director, recommended that the meeting begin because another BHC member was known to be on her way. This would allow for the Chair’s Report and discussion of non-action items.

2) Chair’s Report

Chair Marcia Barry-Smith reported the BrowardNEXT Land Use Plan is being updated and she attended a stakeholder kickoff meeting on August 15. Staff will forward the recorded meeting link to BHC members. She encouraged the use of the Affordable Housing Dashboard as a valuable research tool.

3) Director’s Report

Jo Sesodia, Director, UPD reported that the Board of County Commissioners accepted the BHC 2023 Annual Report during its August 22, 2024 meeting (ITEM #83). Thank you to Commissioner Rogers for sponsoring this item. She shared a memo from Sen. Passidomo regarding condo safety and affordability legislation which explained why a special session was not held to address these issues. UPD staff met with Miami-Dade County staff to discuss its Condominium Special Assessment Program which is funded by the County’s doc stamp and targets low income homeowners facing large assessments. The maximum loan amount is \$50,000 and most applicants are seniors on fixed incomes. The program has received 950 applications and \$18M has been invested so far with \$16M closed. Ms. Sesodia asked for members’ suggestions for speaker presentations at future BHC meetings.

4) Discussion of Amending 2024 Meeting Dates

Sue Carrano, UPD, noted that the October 25, 2024 regular BHC meeting is less than a week from the BHC Workshop on October 30 and provided alternative meeting dates as done last year. Chair Barry Smith noted that moving the regular meeting date allows for timely post workshop discussion.

5) **Discussion of BHC Workshop:**

Jo Sesodia presented the draft workshop agenda which will be attached to the invitation/registration. All panelists are finalized except for a representative from the Area Agency on Aging of Broward who has been invited to participate. The Keynote Speaker will be Sen. Jason Pizzo (Florida, District 37) who is very involved in condo safety legislation. The workshop process, panel format, seating layout and other related items were discussed.

6) **Discussion of Summary of Ballot Amendment**

On June 28, 2024 the BHC directed staff to draft language for a handout regarding the proposed charter referendum to be used at the fall workshop. Annika Ashton, Deputy County Attorney discussed the handout and a memo from the CAO regarding communications regarding ballot proposals and limits on board member advocacy. The handout may be posted on the website and distributed at the workshop but cannot be distributed via mail or email. The BHC as a group entity cannot take an official action but members may discuss the proposed changes in an individual capacity.

7) **Public Comments**

- Denise Brown, interim CEO of LifeNet4Families in Lauderhill, provided an overview of her organization whose goal is helping eradicate poverty and homelessness. The agency's current focus is serving as an owner, builder and development partner of permanent affordable housing for its clients.
- Susan Spragg is the Vice-Chair of the Ft. Lauderdale AHAC and a member of the League of Women Voters, who voted at a recent meeting in support of the proposed Charter amendment.
- Suzanne Fejes, Broward County Housing Finance Division, reported that an RFA will be issued for a project in Pompano Beach, located at a former Motel 6 site. The County purchased this property and is anticipating a total of 200 new units.
- Parnell Joyce, Broward Housing Authority, announced they are close to funding 75 extremely low income senior units in Davie and thanked County Finance Division staff for their leadership on this project.

NOTE: At 11:07 AM, BHC member Michele Collie joined the meeting and Chair Barry-Smith called the meeting to order. Roll call was taken by Sue Carrano who confirmed that a quorum was now present.

8) **Approval of the June 28, 2024, Regular Meeting Minutes**

Motion: Ajibola Balogun moved to approve the minutes as presented. Parnell Joyce seconded. All in favor.

9) **Approval of Revised 2024 Meeting BHC Dates**

Motion: Ajibola Balogun moved to reschedule the October 25, 2024 BHC regular meeting to Friday, November 15, 2024. Michele Collie seconded. All in favor.

10) **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:10 AM.

- 11) **BHC Workshop: 8:30 AM – 12 PM, Wednesday, October 30, 2024, Anne Kolb Nature Center, 751 Sheridan Street, Hollywood, FL**

Disclosure: The above captioned minutes are transcribed in a summary format. To obtain a complete audio recording of the meeting, approved summary minutes, or any presentation or handout materials, submit a public records request through the Urban Planning Division, 954 357 8695.