

Minutes
JANUARY 17, 2024

Commissioner Present:

Lisa Blount
Kathryn Cobb-Holmes
Anthony Reynolds
Richard Wagner

Commissioner(s) Absent:

Valerie Phelps Robinson

Staff:

Kimberly Talbot

Guest:

None

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 by Commissioner Cobb Holmes. The minutes were reviewed. Commissioner Wagner moved to accept the minutes. Commissioner Blount seconded. The minutes were accepted.

Executive Director's Report

The E.D. conducted several interviews for the open positions in the office. The part time investigator position has been offered and 2/1 is the start date. Joliah Westwood will be filling the position. The full-time intake specialist position will be offered to someone already in the office.

The E.D. has been assisting the NAACP with their project involving the city's lead program. They need volunteers to spread the word in the community about what the city has to offer. The volunteers will be paid, and the funding is via the lead grant.

Old Business

Commissioner Cobb-Holmes wanted an update on ESG funding. We still have funds; however, the funds are only being used for condemned properties and those in the shelter or homeless.

Commissioner Wagner requested information regarding resources for the homeless. If it is a single man, the individual should be referred to Hope Rescue Mission. Individuals who need assistance and live in the county can contact BCAP or Family Promise. Those that live within the city can contact Salvation Army and the HRC.

New Business

Commissioner Reynolds informed us that RAWA is also addressing the issue of lead. They will change out lead pipes in approximately 20 homes within the community.

The E.D. received a raise. Commissioner Blount wanted to know if I met with anyone to set goals for the next year. The E.D. did have an evaluation.

Commissioner Cobb-Holmes requested that a new contact list be disseminated between Commissioners.

Good & Welfare

Commissioner Wagner reports that Reading Pride is moving to a new office at 831 Walnut Street. It is where Berks Coalition to End Homelessness (BCEH) used to have their office.

Commissioner Cobb-Holmes reports that BCIU is offering training. The information is on the website. The trainings are free.

Training:

There are no scheduled trainings. The E.D. is working on coordinating training with PHRC.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.