

Meeting Minutes  
September 8, 2021

**Commissioners Present:**

Stacey Taylor  
Zelda Yoder  
Karima (Karen) Archie  
Lisa Blount  
Valerie Phelps-Robinson  
Richard Wagner  
Stacey Taylor

**Absent:**

Katherine Cobbs-Holmes

**Staff Present:**

Kimberly Talbot

**Guest:**

None

The meeting was called to order at 6:06 p.m. by Commissioner Yoder. The minutes were reviewed. Commissioner Yoder pointed out the misspelling of Chief Tornielli's last name. Commissioner Taylor moved that the minutes be accepted with the correction. Commissioner Wagner seconded. The minutes were approved (with correction).

**Executive Director's report**

The E.D. reports an increase in telephone calls and walk-ins from people who are homeless or are in immediate danger of being homeless.

There are 1023 total applications for the rental assistance program. 641 applicants with an eviction/257 applicants with no eviction/34 applicants for utility assistance/91 applications from county residents. We have spent \$1,064,792.00.

The E.D. reports an increase in reports of potential fair housing violations. Landlords are shutting off utilities or moving to evict tenants if they complain to the city about conditions in their dwelling.

The E.D. and Commissioners discussed investigating fair housing cases under our local ordinance. Commissioners were all in agreement. They will be broken up into two groups. Commissioners Taylor, Archie, Wagner will be with investigations while Commissioners Yoder, Blount and Phelps-Robinson will adjudicate cases.

There are 5 open EEOC cases. 1 EEOC intake was completed and 1 is pending.

**Old Business:**

The landlord tenant forum about habitability issues occurred on September 1<sup>st</sup> from 12- 1:30 p.m. There will be 2 part time staffers joining the office.

**New Business**

Commissioner Lisa requests business cards for commissioners.

Commissioner Yoder discussed the type of information that should be covered under new business. This section should cover any motions on topics that are new and need to be raised. Commissioner Yoder suggested adding to the agenda a new line called "Good & Welfare".

**Good and Welfare**

Commissioner Taylor reports that:

-9/18 at Elks will be a football party and people are encouraged to wear their favorite jersey. Hotdogs, hamburgers will be free.

-9/18 is Fisherman's club 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary @ Goggleworks. Tickets are \$45

-9/19 Berks Cultural Festival is at City Park from 12-4

-9/26 Ridgewood Winery in Birdsboro at 2p.m. Tickets are \$65

-10/16 NAACP 34<sup>th</sup> annual Freedom Fund gala will be a virtual event. Tickets are \$40. The food will be from Franklyn's.

Commissioner Blount reports:

-9/11 at Zion Baptist Church 12-5 p.m. they will be issuing vaccines. There is also a supply drive called Hope for Haiti. They will be collecting tents, batteries etc. Monday through Sunday from 1-6 p.m.

Contact information is [hopeforhaitidrive@gmail.com](mailto:hopeforhaitidrive@gmail.com) 484 258 9149

Commissioner Wagner reports:

-9/9 is Gay Days with Fightin Phils @ 6 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 6:41p.m.