

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING  
OF THE HOUSING AND REDEVELOPMENT  
AUTHORITY OF AUSTIN, MINNESOTA**

**December 16, 2002**

The Special Meeting of the Housing and Redevelopment Authority of Austin, Minnesota was held at 7:15 PM, December 16, 2002, at the City Council Chamber. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Lang. Present were Commissioners Chaffee, Jorgenson, Nordin, and Nelson. Also present were Interim Executive Director Dankert, Deputy Director for Community Development Smith, Deputy Director for Housing Volstad, HRA Finance Director Detloff and City Administrator McGarvey.

**Executive Director Discussion:** A letter was delivered to the Commissioners from Interim Executive Director Dankert. It was a letter of resignation from the Interim Executive Director position. Mr. Dankert said that he wanted to focus on his primary duty as Finance Director for the City of Austin. Mr. Dankert recommended that Pat McGarvey assume the role of Interim Director as an additional responsibility until his retirement in the Spring of 2003.

Chairman Lang asked each Commissioner for their thoughts on leadership for the HRA. Commissioner Jorgenson said that while she has always supported the idea of a full time HRA Director, but in light of budget uncertainties Tom Dankert's idea made sense. Commissioner Jorgenson also apologized for her characterization of the Interim Director as a "babysitter". She said that it was a poor choice of words and she did not intend to minimize the work of Mr. Dankert or the HRA staff.

Commissioner Chaffee said that the HRA has done a good job in building an empire and the primary role for now should be to maintain what has been built. Current State budget problems and uncertainties make it difficult to continue with two separate positions.

Commissioner Nordin complemented Tom Dankert on how he has handled the role of Interim Director the last ten weeks. She said she appreciates all the information he has provided the board and that his efforts have gone "above and beyond". Nordin said she saw no need to do any new hiring quickly.

Commissioner Nelson agreed with the statements made by the other Commissioners. He said the situation will be studied and a search for an Executive Director could always be reopened if it seemed in the best interests of the City and HRA.

Chairman Lang said that the HRA should wait and see what the future brings and deal with it when the time comes. At this time an Interim Director is the way to go.

The HRA Board accepted the resignation of Interim Director Dankert with regret and said they are very appreciative of the work he has done.

It was moved by Commissioner Nordin and seconded by Commissioner Chaffee to name City Administrator McGarvey as Interim Director of the HRA until he leaves. There will be no further discussion of the Executive Director position until a new City Administrator is hired. All present voted in favor of the motion, none in opposition thereto. The Chairman declared the motion passed and carried.

HRA experience will be part of the position profile in the search for a new City Administrator. Mr. McGarvey will report on how the combining of duties works and whether the duties could be assumed by the new City Administrator.

**Adjournment:** There being no further business it was moved by Commissioner Jorgenson and seconded by Commissioner Nordin to adjourn the meeting. All present voted in favor of the motion, none in opposition thereto. The Chairman declared the motion passed and carried.

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Richard Lang, Chairman

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Mickey Jorgenson, Secretary/Treasurer