



## Select Board / Arlington Housing Authority Meeting Minutes

Date: December 9, 2020

Time: 7:00 PM

Location: Conducted by Remote Participation

Present: Mr. Hurd, Chair, Mr. Curro, Vice Chair, Mrs. Mahon, Mr. DeCoursey, Mr. Diggins

Present for Housing Authority: Nick Mitropoulos, Chair, Brian Connor, Gaar Talanian, Jo Anne Preston

Also Present: Mr. Chapdelaine, Mr. Heim, Ms. Maher, John Griffin, John Greco

### 1. Executive Order on Remote Participation

Mr. Hurd opened the meeting by explaining that due to the current State of Emergency, to lower the risk of the spread of COVID-19, the Town has been advised and directed by the Commonwealth to suspend public gatherings, and as such the Governor's orders suspends the requirement of the Open Meeting Law to have all meetings in a public and accessible location. Public bodies may meet entirely remotely as long as the public can access the meeting. The meeting reference materials and how to access the remote meeting are posted on the Town's website. The Chair asked participants that would like to speak, to use their full name rather than a nickname.

Mr. Hurd wanted to go over some business ground rules for effective and clear conduct of the meeting and to ensure accurate meeting minutes:

The Chair will introduce each speaker on the agenda, after they conclude their remarks; Mr. Hurd will ask each member of the Board for their remarks or a motion. Please wait until your name is called. Please remember to mute your phone or computer when you are not speaking and to speak clearly. For any response, please wait until the Chair yields to you and state your name before speaking. Anyone wishing to speak to someone must do so through the Chair.

### 2. Appointment: Arlington Housing Authority

John V. Hurd, Select Board, Chair

Nicholas Mitropoulos, Arlington Housing Authority

Mr. Hurd stated that the first order of business is amongst the Chairs to take a nomination for one Chair to act as the Chair for this meeting. Mr. Mitropoulos stated that he nominates Mr. Hurd as chair for this meeting.

Mr. Mitropoulos nominated Mr. Hurd as chair of this meeting.

A roll call vote was taken on the motion by Mr. Heim.

Mr. Connor	yes
Ms. Preston	yes
Mr. Talanian	yes
Mr. Mitropoulos	yes
Mrs. Mahon:	yes
Mr. DeCoursey:	yes
Mr. Diggins:	yes
Mr. Curro:	yes
Mr. Hurd:	yes

SO VOTED (9-0)

Mr. Hurd stated that there are six applicants that are applying for this position and they are going to call each applicant forward for a one minute introduction and then any questions from the Board members that they may have for the applicant. After all applicants have presented they will be taking nominations.

Fiorella Badilla appeared before the Board and stated that she is an immigrant from Costa Rica and has been a resident of the United States since 2007. Ms. Badilla attended and graduated from Arlington High School and has been an advocate for foreign exchange students at AHS, vulnerable families, senior citizens, individuals with special needs. Ms. Badilla stated that she is a resident at Menotomy Manor where she is currently working to re-establish the Menotomy Manor tenants association. Ms. Badilla feels she has the skills and experience to make an important contribution to the work of the AHA Board.

Marion King appeared before the Board and stated that she brings to the table her years of experience in nursing problem solving, empathy and caring. Ms. King stated that her years in gerontology home visit nursing and her own parenting of biracial children would bring great experience to the AHA Board. Ms. King stated that she helped reform the tenant association many years ago with the help of the mass union of public housing tenants and the assistance of the Arlington League of Women Voters. Ms. King stated that she was very active with the Mass Union of Public Housing Tenants attending many of their workshops and learning a lot about public housing. Ms. King stated that she has interacted with many public housing tenants both in Arlington and across the state and has been to many Arlington Housing Authority Meetings and has been an active Town Meeting Member since 2004.

Cynthia McGinty appeared before the Board and stated that she is a tenant at Cusak Terrace and has been there for eleven years where she was also president and vice president of the association. Ms. McGinty stated that she is very involved in everyday doings in the building and knows what all of the problems that tenants have daily. Ms. McGinty would like to open communications between the buildings and share ideas if she would to become a member of the AHA to help with the socialization of the tenants as isolation is a real fear.

Ann McInnes appeared before the Board and stated she is a lifelong Arlington resident. Ms. McInnes stated that investing in her community is an act she firmly believes in.

Currently Ms. McInnes volunteers at the High Rock weekly at the Menotomy Manor and prior to that she was a volunteer with Food Link. Ms. McInnes stated that she volunteers because she believes in basic need relief locally. Professionally Ms. McInnes is a licensed clinical social worker and works within the Cambridge Housing Authority.

Betsy Rulon appeared before the Board and stated that people refer to her as someone that gets things done! Ms. Rulon stated that she connects people to services that they may not know exist and help people utilize all the avenues. Ms. Rulon has helped many residents of Drake Village and citizens of Arlington with Food Link. Ms. Rulon states that she could bring to the Board relative to her statewide experience.

John Ward appeared before the Board and stated that he has been a resident of Winslow Towers for the past two and a half years. Mr. Ward stated that he has worked endlessly to understand the operations of the Housing Administration, the Board of Directors and their relationship with the Department of Housing and Community Development. Mr. Ward stated that he feels he has all the abilities to hit the ground running when it comes to serving on the Board of Directors.

Mr. Hurd stated that at this time they are going to open up for nominations. Once we have nominations they will go to a round of votes and if at any time an applicant gets a majority of the votes that will be the applicant that is selected.

Mr. Connor would like to nominate Betsy Rulon seconded by Mr. Talanian. Mr. Connor stated that he has worked with Ms. Rulon for many years and was president at Drake Village and was very successful in the food program which later became Food Link. Mr. Connor stated that Ms. Rulon is an extremely intelligent woman and would be a great addition to the Board.

Ms. Preston would like to nominate Marion King seconded by Mr. Curro. Ms. Preston stated that she feels it would be very good to have someone who has a full knowledge of Menotomy Manor as well as forming tenants associations. Ms. Preston feels her years of experience working with tenants here and at a state level would be very important.

Mr. Diggins would like to nominate Fiorella Badilla seconded by Mrs. Mahon. Mr. Diggins stated that Ms. Badilla has a strong connection to Menotomy Manor as well as being a student of AHS while being a resident there. Mr. Diggins states that he feels she brings a perspective of a young person and is impressed that at her age she wants to get involved in this Board and feels she would be a great addition.

Mr. Hurd stated for the public to know that we have received detailed resumes for all applicants as well as a statement of intention as to why they want to run. Mr. Hurd stated that the Board will be taking a roll call vote and instead of saying yes or no they will provide the name of the applicant that has been nominated.

A roll call vote was taken on the motion by Mr. Heim.  
Mr. Connor                      Betsy Rulon

Ms. Preston	Fiorella Badilla
Mr. Talanian	Betsy Rulon
Mr. Mitropoulos	Betsy Rulon
Mrs. Mahon:	Fiorella Badilla
Mr. DeCoursey:	Fiorella Badilla
Mr. Diggins:	Fiorella Badilla
Mr. Curro:	Fiorella Badilla
Mr. Hurd:	Betsy Rulon

Mr. Hurd stated that there were five votes casted for Ms. Badilla and four votes for Ms. Rulon that is a successful appointment for Ms. Badilla.

Mrs. Mahon moved to adjourn at 7:45p.m.

A roll call vote was taken on the motion by Mr. Heim.

Mr. Connor	yes
Ms. Preston	yes
Mr. Talanian	yes
Mr. Mitropoulos	yes
Mrs. Mahon:	yes
Mr. DeCoursey:	yes
Mr. Diggins:	yes
Mr. Curro:	yes
Mr. Hurd:	yes

SO VOTED (9-0)

Next Scheduled Meeting of Select Board December 21, 2020

A true record attest

Ashley Maher  
Administrative Assistant

12/9/2020

Agenda Item	Document Used
1	Executive Order on Remote Participation
2	Memo from Town Counsel Vacancy Meeting Notice F. Badilla Resume M. Healy Resume W. Kennedy Resume M. King Resume C. McGinty Resume A. McInnes Resume R. Pontes Resume D. Rulon Resume J. Ward Resume