

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE HOUSING AUTHORITY
OF THE CITY OF SEATTLE
FEBRUARY 21, 2017

The Commissioners of the Housing Authority of the City of Seattle (“Seattle Housing Authority” or “SHA”) met in regular session on February 21, 2017, at SHA’s Central Office Building located at 190 Queen Anne Avenue North, Seattle, Washington. Board Chair Debbie Thiele called the meeting to order at 5:12 p.m. Kimberly Garrett performed a roll call for Board Commissioners in attendance. Commissioners present and absent were as follows:

Present: Debbie Thiele, Chair
Emily Abbey, Vice-Chair
Ahmed Abdi (via phone)
Zachary DeWolf
Dr. Paula Houston

Absent: David Moseley
Jermaine Smiley

Other Attendees: Steve Boyd, MacBoyd & Associates
Galen Brodie, MacBoyd & Associates

Public Comment

Jiro Ramji

Marguerite Richard

Regular Agenda

SHA 2017 Board Workplan

The Commissioners attended a working session with facilitator Steve Boyd, of MacBoyd and associates.

Outcomes

OVERALL

CONTINUE TO ENHANCE OUR BOARD KNOWLEDGE AND PROFESSIONALISM TO POSITIVELY AFFECT THE LIVES OF LOW INCOME FAMILIES BY PROVIDING QUALITY HOUSING OPTIONS

- *UNDERSTAND OUR FELLOW BOARD MEMBERS AND THEIR MOTIVATIONS FOR SERVING AS SHA COMMISSIONERS.*
 - *PARTICIPATE IN A TEAM DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY TO BETTER UNDERSTAND FELLOW BOARD MEMBERS -- THEIR WORK STYLES AND LEARNING STYLES*
 - *CONTINUE TO IDENTIFY BOARD FOCUS AREAS AND SETTING AGENDA PRIORITIES*
 - *CONTINUE TO LEARN FROM EACH OTHER (AND HAVE FUN!) AS WE DEEPEN OUR PROFESSIONAL AND PERSONAL COMMITMENTS AND RELATIONSHIPS.*
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Introduction – Steve Boyd

- The more we understanding each other as people and what we bring to our role here, the better work we can do together. The who and the what are equally as important.

WHO: Board member check in:

What are some of my key values, or personal motivations, to serve on the SHA Board of Commissioners?

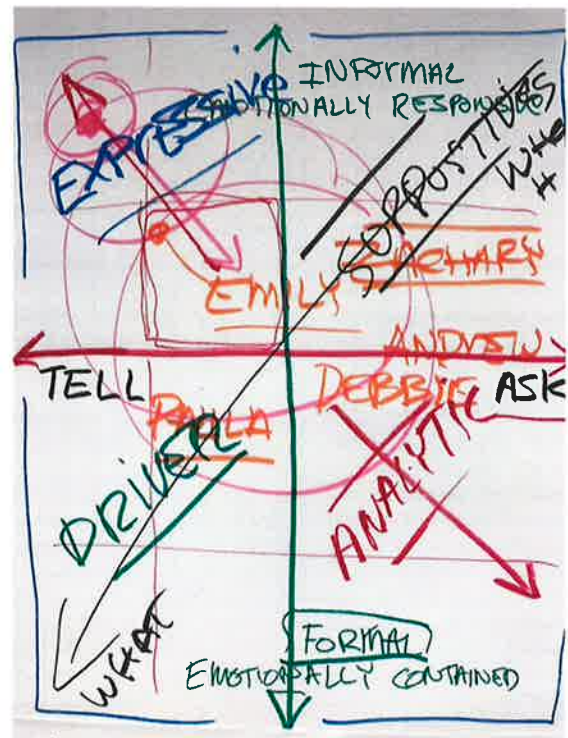
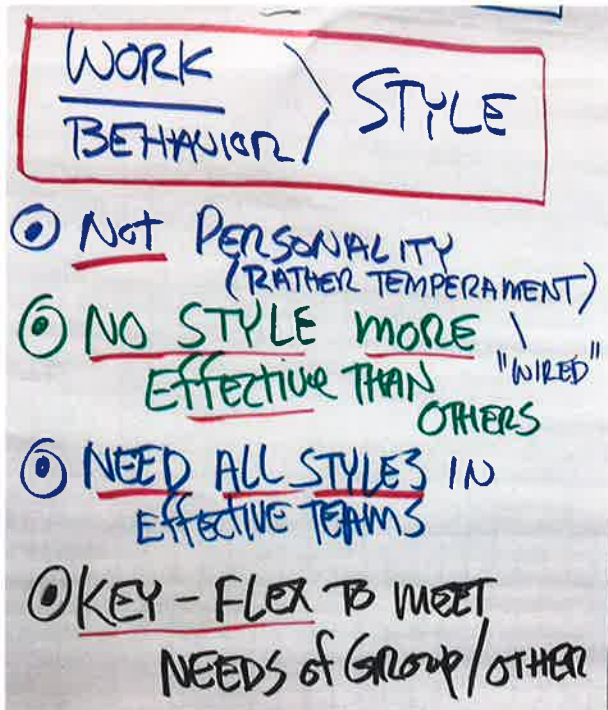
- **Commissioner Thiele** – Has been working in affordable and supportive housing her whole career with the focus primarily around disabilities and other complex life challenges. She had a professional connection to SHA and affordable housing in general and is now working nationally to help housing authorities align their resources with services, and has a good national perspective but lost touch with Seattle so being a part of this board has been great to keep her connected.
- **Commissioner Abbey** – Has been active in housing policy and procedure committees. She is not interested in being a rubber stamp and wants to make a difference, especially along the lines of procedures. She cares about people and thinks SHA does a fabulous job but could do better and is here to help.
- **Commissioner Dr. Houston** – Has been in health and human services leadership roles her entire career. She has a passion is to see individuals and communities stay healthy and well (housing and support to maintain health and well-being).
- **Commissioner DeWolf** – His philosophy: every single person is a neighbor. He would like to serve in a way that provides hope, self-sufficiency, and stability. He has a vision of where people don't have to stress about where they are living. He is providing a young, queer, native perspective to create life of respect and hope.
- **Commissioner Abdi** – He is someone who came here for an opportunity (American Dream) and found himself looking for housing authorities. There are a lot of challenges for people who are new to this country which includes housing, and he was lucky he

didn't need to stay in housing that long however saw a lot of people who had problems finding housing and this being able to move forward in their life. He joined to help find solutions to housing problems in Seattle and to contribute the knowledge and experience he has as an immigrant as well as the work he has done within communities and social justice work. He also hopes to gain more experience by being a board member and to learn from others.

WHO: Understanding Commissioner work styles + learning styles

This process is to help understand other Board member's collaboration/thinking styles, time orientation, and decision-making.

Reference the "Behavior Styles" handouts



WHAT: Continuing to build our Commission work agenda

Review of the mini-assessment summary

- I'd like to develop a better understanding of...
 - Top votes (4 votes each)
 - Tax Credit financing
 - Participant demographics
 - How SHA fits in the low income housing "eco-system" of Seattle/King County

- **What other specific ideas can you suggest to improve Board effectiveness?**
 - Top vote (3 votes): Board Communication / Spending Time Together
 - Talking to each other. We need to communicate with one another between meetings if we need to. Our board should be on the same page as much as possible heading into a board meeting.
 - I would like to ask each commissioner what brought them to this board and what are the issues that are most important to them. We do not know each other. We need more opportunities for board members to talk to each other.
 - Spend more time together (commissioners)
 - Explore the “how” of communication for the board

What, in addition to items on 2017 Work Plan Calendar, would you like to have on the agenda this year?

- Focus on customer service piece (procedures)
- Help board understand:
 - Board role v Staff role
 - Policy v Procedure
 - When does our personal agenda get to affect the board decisions?
- Know what is going on nationally and where does SHA fit in? Lessons learned from other Housing Authorities
- Hear more from people we are serving (hearing stories from folks we are serving); sit in JPAC or RAC meetings (more connectedness)
- Better understanding Sect 8 vouchers (constraints and possibilities)

SHA Board Retreat

- Commissioners present discussed the possibility of having a Board retreat and felt it would be helpful to strengthening the group.

Commissioner Thiele asked if there were any further questions or comments from staff, or from her colleagues on the Board. Hearing none, the February 21, 2017 Regular session of the Board adjourned at 6:47 p.m.



 Secretary-Treasurer