

MINUTES OF THE HOUSTON FIREFIGHTERS' RELIEF AND RETIREMENT FUND

A regular meeting of the Houston Firefighters' Relief and Retirement Fund (HFRRF) Board of Trustees convened at the Fund offices at 4225 Interwood North Parkway, Houston, Texas 77032 on Tuesday, November 19, 2019 at 10:31 a.m.

Trustees present were Brett R. Besselman (Chair), Stephen R. Whitehead (Vice Chair), Lisa R. Slagle (Secretary), Gerard L. Daniels, Pete Ng, David O. Lantrip, Arif Rasheed (City Treasurer Designee), Earnest W. Wotring (Mayor's Representative), and Albertino "Al" Mays (Citizen Member). Trustee absent was Juliet N. Higgins. Others present were staff members Ralph D. Marsh (Executive Director), Jonathan W. Needle (Chief Legal Officer), and Adam Smith (Associate Legal Counsel II). Also present were Jeri Brooks and Chelbi Mims, representatives from One World Strategy Group, Tony Essalih, a representative from Cornerstone Government Affairs, Ted Delisi and Jarod Love, representatives from Delisi Communications.

The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:31 a.m.

The Board recited the Pledge of Allegiance and observed a moment of silence.

The Chair invited comments from the public. No comments were received.

Lisa R. Slagle made an amendment to the minutes of the meeting held on October 15, 2019 to include the title "Executive Director" to a Fund staff member's name who was present at the October 15, 2019 meeting.

There was then a motion by Stephen R. Whitehead, seconded by Albertino Mays, to approve the minutes of the regular Board meeting held on Tuesday, October 15, 2019, as amended. The motion carried.

There was a motion by Lisa R. Slagle, seconded by David O. Lantrip, to approve the minutes of the special Board meeting held on Wednesday, October 30, 2019. The motion carried.

There was a motion by David O. Lantrip, seconded by Stephen R. Whitehead, to approve the following items listed on the Consent Agenda:

- a. Report of the Pension Benefits Committee meeting held on Tuesday, October 15, 2019.
- b. Minutes of the Investment Committee meeting held on Tuesday, October 15, 2019.
- c. Minutes of the Personnel and Procedures Committee meeting held on Tuesday, October 15, 2019.
- d. Minutes of the Budget and Audit Committee meeting held on Tuesday, October 15, 2019.

The motion carried.

The report of the Pension Benefits Committee meeting held on Tuesday, October 15, 2019 noted the following: Approval of the Deferred Retirement Option Plan (DROP) application(s) effective November 1, 2019; approval to continue the disability benefits of pension recipients currently receiving disability benefits under Section 6(b) of the statute based on the result of the random re-examination, pursuant to Section 9(a), as shown on Member Services Report (1) and (2).

Jeri Brooks and Chelbi Mims (One World Strategy Group) each gave an update on the November 5, 2019 local elections.

Ted Delisi and Jarod Love (Delisi Communications) and Tony Essalih (Cornerstone Government Affairs) each gave an update on the Fund's governmental relations with the Texas Legislature.

Earnest Wotring departed the meeting room at 11:32 a.m.

Jeri Brooks, Chelbi Mims, Ted Delisi, Jarod Love, and Tony Essalih departed the meeting room at 11:32 a.m.

The Chief Legal Officer and the Associate Legal Counsel II provided updates on the Fund lawsuits against the City of Houston and City officials related to Senate Bill 2190 in the 85th Texas legislature and on the appeal of a disability determination.

Stephen R. Whitehead provided comments on his attendance at the International Foundation of Employee Benefit Plans (IFEBP) "Pre-Conference Workshop and Annual Conference" held on October 19-23, 2019 in San Diego, CA.

Lisa R. Slagle provided comments on her attendance at the NCPERS "Accredited Fiduciary (NAF) Program, Modules 3 and 4" held on October 26-27, 2019 in New Orleans, LA, stating that she had completed the required classes for her certification and will be taking the final test soon.

Gerard L. Daniels provided comments on his attendance at the Hyphen Network "25th Annual National Pension & Institutional Investment Summit" held on November 5-6, 2019 in Dallas, TX.

Under future agenda items, Lisa R. Slagle stated that she forwarded a letter to the Board Chair expressing her interest to remain as a Citizen Member-Trustee for calendar years 2020 – 2021.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m., on a motion by Lisa R. Slagle, seconded by David O. Lantrip. The motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa R. Slagle
Board Secretary