

## **MINUTES OF THE HOUSTON FIREFIGHTERS' RELIEF AND RETIREMENT FUND**

A special meeting of the Houston Firefighters' Relief and Retirement Fund (HFRRF) Board of Trustees convened at the Fund offices at 4225 Interwood North Parkway on Tuesday, February 13, 2018, at 10:20 a.m.

Trustees present were David L. Keller, Jr., (Chair), Stephen R. Whitehead (Vice Chair), Francis "Frank" X. Maher (Secretary), Garry W. Blackmon, Sr., Juliet N. Higgins, Brett R. Besselman, Arif Rasheed, Earnest W. Wotring, Albertino "Al" Mays, and Lisa Slagle. Others present were staff members Ralph D. Marsh (Executive Director), and Jonathan W. Needle (Chief Legal Officer).

The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:20 a.m.

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

David L. Keller, Jr., (Chair), administered the oath of office to Stephen R. Whitehead (Trustee Position III).

Anthony "Tony" Roda (Williams and Jensen, PLLC) gave an overview on relationships with federal lawmakers and on potential changes this election cycle that could impact the fund.

Tony Essalih (Cornerstone Governmental Affairs) Ted Delisi and Jarod Love (Delisi Communications) lead discussions on state issues and on key state races. Also discussed was the leadership in the Texas legislature and how some changes might impact Fund strategy in the next session.

Jeri Brooks (One World Strategy Group, LLC) lead a discussion on local issues that could impact firefighter pension relations.

The Chair announced the formation of two ad hoc committees to aid the Board in its relationships with the City of Houston and the State of Texas. The City of Houston ad hoc Committee members are David L. Keller, Jr, Francis "Frank" X. Maher, Juliet N. Higgins and Lisa Slagle. The State of Texas ad hoc Committee members are David L. Keller, Jr., Stephen R. Whitehead, Garry W. Blackmon, Sr and one other trustee to be selected at a later date.

Albertino "Al" Mays exited the meeting at 11:30 a.m.

Arif Rasheed exited the meeting at 11:35 a.m.

Joseph Gimenez III (G3 Public Relations) provided an overall discussion on Fund communications priorities and the implementation of key successful communication strategies.

Special Board Minutes

Date: Tuesday, February 13, 2018

Page 2 of 2

Earnest W. Wotring requested a future agenda items regarding discussion on adopting the Boards legislative agenda and the role of the ad hoc committees formed by the Chair; development of Fund policies governing Board ad hoc committees, their assignments and their relationship to the Board; and a refresher on the capabilities and incapability's of the Board in varied legislative-related exchanges that may affect the Fund. Francis "Frank" X. Maher requested a future agenda item regarding discussion on the Fund hosting a State-wide public pension fund forum on defined benefit plans, leading up to the opening of the next Texas legislative session.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:08 p.m. on a motion by Garry W. Blackmon, Sr., seconded by Brett R. Besselman. The motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Francis "Frank" X. Maher  
Secretary