**AUSTIN TENANTS COUNCIL**

**205 CHICON ST.**

**AUSTIN, TEXAS 78702**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

The meeting was called to order by Board Chair Carol Biedrzycki on May 9, 2022 at 9:01 am.

**Board Members Present**

Carol Biedrzycki, David Jones, Kate Moore, and Christina Rosales. Because the board currently has no secretary, Carol Biedrzycki volunteered to keep the minutes of the meeting.

**Staff Present**

Aja Gair, Interim Executive Director beginning May 10, 2022. April Willis, Interim Executive Director, Office Manager, Sylvianne Ramirez, and Alec Rees, Fair Housing Director, Philisa Campbell, Fair Housing Director. Debra Peterson, Finance Manager arrived in time for the Financial Report.

**Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**Approval of Minutes**

**ACTION: Kate moved to approve the board meeting minutes for April 5, 2022. Christina seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.**

There was discussion of the recording of the virtual vote by email to hire Aja Gair as the interim executive director. Separate minutes were reviewed to memorialize the decision. David moved to approve the minutes as amended. Kate seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

**Financial Report**

Debra Peterson, Finance Manager provided a report on the budget and an update on grants.

**Interim Executive Director Report**

April introduced the new Tenant Landlord Program Director Philisia Campbell. Philisia talked about her background in child protective services and human resources in the military. The board welcomed her

Aja Gair was introduced next and explained her experience with SAFE Alliance. The board welcomed her. Carol asked Aja to provide a work plan for the next meeting regarding the exploration of next steps identified in the job description as possibly including improving existing programs, scaling back, or the possible dissolution of the organization. Carol also suggested making contacts with some local groups working on housing matters that affect tenants. Carol promised to email Aja about these activities.

Staff and Program Updates included announcing a number of events where ATC will participate in community outreach including Housing Rights Training at Front Steps in San Marcos, ECHO, Austin Energy’s Community Connections Resource Fair, and others.

April discussed plans for her to transition out of ATC’s leadership. Carol thanked April for her outstanding leadership and success in making the organization much more stable with a brighter future over the past three months. She and Derbra Peterson will work out a transition plan for the very near future.

**Old Business**

This item was not taken up

**New Business**

Three potential new board members are under consideration. Former Austin City Council Member Jimmy Flannigan, retired Personnel Manger Harold White and David Wheaton an attorney from Texas Low Income Housing Information Services. There was discussion as to whether or not it was a good time to bring on new board members. No vote was taken but the discussion concluded with a decision to invite the candidates to the next board meeting in June.

**Schedule Next meeting**

The next meeting is anticipated to be held the week of June 16th. A doodle poll will be taken to pin down a workable date and time for everyone.

The meeting adjourned at 9:53 a.m.

Submitted by Board Chair as Acting Secretary Date: May 11, 2022

Approved by Vice Chair Date: June 2022