**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 February 22, 2022 at 12:02 pm.

**Board Members Present**

February 22, 2022 Carol Biedrzycki, David Jones, Fisayo Fadelu, Kate Moore, Christina Rosales. Because the board currently has no secretary, Carol Biedrzycki volunteered to keep the minutes of the meeting. February 24, 2022 Carol Biedrzycki, David Jones, Fisayo Fadelu, Kate Moore, Christina Rosales. March 2, 2022 Carol Biedrzycki, David Jones, Kate Moore, Christina Rosales

**Staff Present**

February 22, 2022 and February 24, 2022 April Willis, Interim Executive Director, Debra Peterson, Finance Manager, and Office Manager, Sylvainne Ramirez. On March 2, 2022 Alec Rees, Fair Housing Director was also in attendance.

**Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**Approval of Minutes**

**ACTION: Christina moved to approve the board meeting minutes for January 13, 2022. David seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.**

**Interim Executive Director’s Report**

Dr. April Willis, interim executive director provided a written report describing a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) and walked the board through the report that concluded in four questions to be answered by the board to determine the future direction of the ATC organization. There were questions and discussion surrounding the future of the organization that include maintaining ATC programs in house while strengthening staff training and improving ; parceling out services to other nonprofit organizations, acquisition by another nonprofit; and dissolving the organization. The board chair recommended, because of time constraints, that the meeting be recessed and continued at a later date. There were no objections.

The meeting and discussion recessed at 12:58 pm until Thursday February 24m 2022 at 2 p.m. when the meeting was reconvened for additional discussion and possible action.

David moved that ATC remain a nonprofit organization in Austin that serves tenants experiencing challenges related to housing issues. The chair asked for a second. There was none. Carol expressed that she would second the motion but thought it was inappropriate for her to do so. Motion failed.

Kate moved that a consultant be hired to explore agencies interested in absorbing grants and services with an emphasis on nontraditional partners. Christina seconded.

Because of time constraints the meeting recessed with no objection until March 2, 2022 at 9 a.m. The meeting convened with agreement to table the motion left on the floor on February 24, 2022.

In the interests of finding a path forward that all the board members can support two possible motions were discussed but no action was taken. The motions are as follows:

* Ask April (if able and willing) to spend 2 weeks (more or less time?) to investigate the following potential options for ATC programs and come back to the board with her findings. This would include: More specifics around transitioning the fair housing program to TRLA, to include specific timelines and needed next steps; Outreach to additional nonprofits, including the Austin Justice Coalition, the Austin Area Urban League, (and hopefully other nonprofits) to understand their willingness to take on the Tenant Landlord grants and programming. This analysis would include willingness for those agencies to take on current ATC staff.
* Initiate a search for an executive director that openly states that there is an immediate need for the development of training programs to improve the client experience and an updating of reporting systems, procedures and responsibilities. In May of 2023 the board will review the success of efforts to shore up program services and streamline reporting requirements and at this time determine the need for the hiring of a consultant to identify appropriate organizations for partnership in program delivery or appropriate candidate organizations for acquisition of the programs.

There was much discussion surrounding the two motions with no meeting of minds and no action was taken. Carol asked staff to provide a cost analysis and for information about available budget resources to support the two proposals. She also noted the need to post notice before a vote was taken to comply with the UPO Union Collective Bargaining Agreement.

At the next meeting, the board will discuss work with a list of priorities provided by Dr. Willis to try to better define the direction that is in the best interests of clients served and the organization.

**Staff Reports**

The finance manager and office manager provided updates.

**Schedule Next Meeting**

A meeting was schedules for March 8, 2022 form 9 to 10:30 am.

The meeting adjourned at 9:58 a.m.

Board Chair as Acting Secretary Date: March 2, 2022

Approved by Vice Chair Date: March 2, 2022