

Minutes
South Carolina Real Estate Commission
Regular Meeting/Hearing
Synergy Business Park, Kingtree Building, Room 108
Wednesday, May 19, 2004

Members attending: Jay Keenan, Vice Chairman; Steven Sloop, Secretary; Dan Ballou; Manning Biggers; Betty Carter, Buccie Harley; Robert Heos; and Scott Moseley
Absent: Evelyn Young (Excused)

Staff attending: Robert L. Selman, Administrator; Edwin A. Farnell, III, Manager, Regulatory Compliance; Ann Parris, Administrative Assistant; Jay Pitts, Administrator, Engineers and Land Surveyors Board; and Rick Wilson, Advice Counsel

Others attending: Jim Peters, Executive Vice President, South Carolina Association of REALTORS (SCAR)

Call to Order and Freedom of Information Statement

Vice Chairman Keenan called the meeting to order at 10:05 A.M. and stated for the record the following Freedom of Information statement. Public notice of this meeting was properly posted at the Real Estate Commission office, Synergy Business Park, Kingtree Building, Columbia, South Carolina, and provided to all requesting persons, organizations, and news media in compliance with Section 30-4-80 of the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act. A quorum was present at all times.

Invocation – Vice Chairman Keenan

New Member Welcomed –

Vice Chairman Keenan introduced and welcomed Scott Moseley, Public Member, to the Commission. Mr. Moseley, President of the Irmo Insurance Agency, lives in Irmo with his wife and son. He said he looks forward to serving on the Commission.

Approval of Minutes – March 24, 2004

Motion: Minutes of the March 24, 2004, meeting were approved as written on motion of Mr. Biggers and second of Ms. Carter. Unanimously passed.

Motion to Excuse Absence of Evelyn Young- Ms. Young notified staff yesterday that she was ill and would not be in attendance. Mr. Ballou moved that Ms. Young's absence be excused. Mr. Harley seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

ARELLO Southern District Conference - Mr. Biggers and Mr. Pitts reported on preparations and plans for the upcoming conference in Charleston in June.

Guests Events - Mr. Pitts outlined guests events scheduled which include a dine-around with college students escorting participants to their restaurants of choice, tours (both walking and carriage), historic tours (Nathaniel Russell House, Fort Sumter), golf, aquarium, and fishing. He reported that Mr. Biggers has acquired a sponsor for the Spirit of Carolina Dinner Cruise

scheduled for Saturday night and that at this point, 50 seats have been reserved. Mr. Pitts stated he is trying to attain additional seats.

Gift Bags – Mr. Pitts displayed a hand painted mug and Christmas ornament (palmetto tree and crescent moon), and examples of Charleston prints that the Engineers and Land Surveyors Board had included in a gift bag they presented to participants at their Charleston conference last year. He said he is currently working on this matter but that the budget has to be considered in determining what items would be chosen.

Speaker - Opening Breakfast– Mr. Pitts stated he does not have a confirmation from Mayor Joe Riley for the opening breakfast spot but expects to hear from his office within the next 24 hours. Vice Chairman Keenan stated he would assist in trying to obtain another speaker for that slot if Mr. Riley cannot make it and asked Mr. Pitts to let him know.

Ms. Carter reported the Charleston Trident Association of REALTORS (CTAR) would sponsor on Thursday afternoon a tour of historic areas of development—e.g., plantations. She stated Judy Wolk, Education Director of CTAR, has arranged a bus available for those individuals who were interested in the tour.

Mr. Biggers reviewed the agenda. He outlined speakers and their topics. He thanked Jim Peters, Executive Vice President, SCAR, for the \$1,000 sponsorship that will be used for speaker expenses.

Mr. Biggers said registration is going very well and it is estimated there should be over 100 attendees.

June Commission meeting – There will be a regular Commission meeting on Thursday, June 24, 2 p.m. Mr. Biggers said Vice Chairman Keenan has offered the use of a conference room in his hotel, the French Quarter Inn, for this meeting. Mr. Ballou said he had a conflict and would not be able to attend. Discussion on holding elections at this meeting took place. It was decided elections would be postponed until the next regular meeting.

Management Update – Robert Selman

Mr. Selman stated that the amendments to the real estate license law were passed (copy in notebooks) The Governor signed the legislation to become effective January 1, 2005.

He stated there is extensive work to be done and that a committee composed of real estate practitioners and staff is already in place. They will meet in early June. They will design and develop forms and try to find the best means of “getting the word out.” He said the staff would also continue to work in concert with SCAR regarding these changes. Mr. Selman stated the license law (black book) would be reprinted to reflect the changes. He said a link to the revisions has been placed on the Commission web site.

Ed Farnell

Mr. Farnell discussed the restructuring of all LLR investigators. He said within the next 30-60 days, all investigators would become one unit known as Office of Investigation under the Division of Legal Services. Mr. Farnell stated he feels very good about this change. It is certainly a good thing for the investigators as it gives them a career path that they have not had before.

Mr. Farnell stated he would be in charge of one of the two divisions of the unit. He will head up the construction and business related boards with approximately 45-50 investigators in his section. He said he no longer will report to Bob Selman but will report directly to Lynne Rogers, General Counsel. This unit will be located on the third floor. He assured the members they will not see a change in hearing procedures. The Real Estate Commission will still have the same prosecutor and investigators. He stated members could still contact him or Mr. Selman if they had questions, etc.

Mr. Farnell stated there would be one change in that the Commission would begin including the costs of the investigation and prosecution in addition to other sanctions in cases when a licensee is found in violation of the license law and that this would become part of the Order.

Vice Chairman Keenan noted that Mr. Peters (SCAR) departed at 10:40 a.m. Mr. Selman stated Mr. Peters did not have any business to come before the board.

There was neither Unfinished Business nor New Business.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:05 a.m. on motion of Mr. Ballou.

Vice Keenan indicated there would be a ten-minute break before the hearing panel convened.