

MINUTES

South Carolina Real Estate Commission

Wednesday, April 16, 2014, 10:00am

Synergy Business Park, Kingstree Building, Conference Room 105

110 Centerview Drive, Columbia, South Carolina 29210

Meeting Called to Order:

Chairman Cox called the meeting of the South Carolina Real Estate Commission to order at 10:00 a.m. Board members participating in this meeting included:

Tony Cox – Chair, 7th Congressional District
David Crigler – Vice-Chair - 4th Congressional District
Candace Pratt – 1st Congressional District
Carl Edwards – 3rd Congressional District
Manning Biggers – 5th Congressional District
Buccie Harley – 6th Congressional District
G. Hamlin O’Kelley – Public Member
Wayne Poplin – At-Large Member
Johnathan Stackhouse – Public Member

Staff members participating during the meeting included Roderick Atkinson, Board Administrator; Wanda Cooke, Administrative Assistant; Georgia Lewis, Office of Advice Counsel; Holly Beeson, Office of the Director, and Sharon Wolfe, Office of Investigations.

Public Notice:

Chairman Cox announced that public notice of this meeting was properly posted at the S.C. Real Estate Commission Office, Synergy Business Park, Kingstree Building, 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.

Pledge of Allegiance:

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all present.

Introduction of Board Members and Staff

Excused Absences:

David C. Lockwood, III, 2nd Congressional District

MOTION:

Mr. Poplin made a motion to excuse this absence. Mr. Crigler seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

4. IRC Report - The Commission reviewed the IRC report from April 14, 2014.

MOTION:

Mr. O'Kelley made the motion to approve the IRC report from April 14, 2014. Mr. Poplin seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

APPLICATION HEARINGS

Lavonna Cummings

The Commission held an Application Hearing regarding Lavonna Cummings. Ms. Cummings appeared before the Commission to present testimony and waived her right to counsel. Discussion ensued.

MOTION:

Mr. O'Kelley made a motion to allow Ms. Cummings to sit for the examination and obtain a license upon submission of a statement from her prospective employer. Mr. Crigler seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

(This proceeding was recorded by a court report in order to produce a verbatim transcript if requested in accordance with the law.)

Kenneth Drakeford

The Commission held an Application Hearing regarding Kenneth Drakeford. Mr. Drakeford appeared before the Commission to present testimony and waived his right to counsel. Discussion ensued.

MOTION:

Mr. Harley made a motion to allow Mr. Drakeford to sit for the examination and obtain a license upon submission of a statement from his prospective employer. Mr. Stackhouse seconded the motion, which carried with a 5/3 vote.

(This proceeding was recorded by a court report in order to produce a verbatim transcript if requested in accordance with the law.)

Kelly Howell

The Commission held an Application Hearing regarding Kelly Howell. Ms. Howell appeared before the Commission to present testimony and waived her right to counsel. Discussion ensued.

MOTION:

Mr. Edwards made a motion to enter Executive Session. Mr. Biggers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

MOTION:

Mr. Biggers made a motion to enter Open Session. Mr. Crigler seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

MOTION:

Mr. O'Kelley made a motion to allow Ms. Howell to sit for the property manager's examination and obtain a property manager's license upon submission of an affidavit from a licensed Property Manager in Charge or Broker in Charge, who will agree to mentor Ms. Howell for a period of one year. After this one year mentorship, Ms. Howell can apply for a Property Manager in Charge license. Ms. Pratt seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

(This proceeding was recorded by a court report in order to produce a verbatim transcript if requested in accordance with the law.)

Justin Kirkman

The Commission held an Application Hearing regarding Justin Kirkman. Mr. Kirkman appeared before the Commission to present testimony and waived his right to counsel. Discussion ensued.

MOTION:

Mr. Edwards made a motion to enter Executive Session. Mr. Poplin seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

MOTION:

Mr. Crigler made a motion to enter Open Session. Ms. Pratt seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

MOTION:

Mr. Edwards made a motion to allow Mr. Kirkman to sit for the sales examination and obtain a provisional license. However, his license will have a probationary status pending completion of his probation and provision of documentation to that affect. Mr. Crigler seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

(This proceeding was recorded by a court report in order to produce a verbatim transcript if requested in accordance with the law.)

Melony Nikole Martin

The Commission held an Application Hearing regarding Melony Nikole Martin. Ms. Martin appeared before the Commission to present testimony and waived her right to counsel. Discussion ensued.

MOTION:

Mr. Crigler made a motion to allow Ms. Martin to obtain a property manager's license. Mr. Edwards seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

(This proceeding was recorded by a court report in order to produce a verbatim transcript if requested in accordance with the law.)

Stephen Weil

The Commission held an Application Hearing regarding Stephen Weil. Mr. Weil appeared before the Commission to present testimony and waived his right to counsel. Mr. Poplin recused himself because he is a friend of Mr. Weil's family. Discussion ensued.

MOTION:

Mr. O'Kelley made a motion to allow Mr. Weil to sit for the sales examination. Ms. Pratt seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

(This proceeding was recorded by a court report in order to produce a verbatim transcript if requested in accordance with the law.)

Unfinished Business

Holly Beeson presented the Commission with a copy of a pending Bills S75 and H3771. Mr. Atkinson advised the Commission that he is currently reviewing the contract with Sterling, because of the pending legislation regarding criminal background checks. Discussion ensued.

Some discussion was held regarding adding Commission meetings for June and July in an effort to resolve some of the pending disciplinary cases. Installing a panel of Hearing officers was discussed as another option.

Public Comments:

Michael Lee, representative of the South Carolina Association of Realtors addressed the commission and advised that the Association is reviewing the current license law draft and indicated that Nick Kremydas would like to give a presentation to the Commission at the August 2014 meeting.

MOTION:

Mr. Poplin made a motion to enter Executive Session. Mr. Crigler seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

MOTION:

Mr. Stackhouse made a motion to enter Open Session. Ms. Pratt seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

The Commission asked Pat Hanks, Director, Office of Disciplinary Counsel, to address the Commission concerning the backlog of cases, and ideas for streamlining the process.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.