

MINUTES

Citizens Advisory Council
for Housing Matters

July 5, 1979

4 p.m. State Housing Advocate's
Office

Absent: Cugno, DeNigris, Hanks, Maurer, Reeves, Shilinga

Guests: E. Dale, Legal Services Legislative Office; Leroy Pittman, Housing Communicators; Ben Rubin, Manchester Tenants Association; Rick Shelton, Revitalization Corps.

The meeting convened at 4:30 p.m. Podolsky reminded the Council that it had been previously agreed to begin meetings promptly at 4:00 p.m., regardless of whether a quorum was present. The Council agreed to begin future meetings at 4 p.m., and agreed to discuss agenda items whether a quorum is present or not.

The Minutes of the 6/7/79 meeting were accepted as printed.

The Council voted to add the item of "Staff Secretary" to the Agenda under "New Business."

A. Council Financial Report

Copies of a financial report prepared by Augur were distributed. Income was \$365, expenses \$20.75, balance in checking account is \$344.25.

B. Chairperson's Report - Augur

- (1) Council Vacancies - Augur advised that she had spoken with all Council members and no one wished to relinquish his/her seat.

On a MOTION (Coll-Podolsky) it was unanimously VOTED to advise the Governor that the first vacancy to occur on the Council be filled by an individual living East of the Connecticut river.

It was stipulated that this letter not be sent until Hanks' seat is confirmed.

- (2) Disputed Seat - Augur indicated that she had sent a letter to the Governor's office, stating that Cecil Hanks and the rest of the Council had believed that his Council seat was confirmed. Sharpe concluded that the Governor's office is clearing his appointment.

C. Subcommittee Reports

- (1) Personnel Subcommittee - Augur advised that she, Stafford, Podolsky and Arnold had reviewed all the resumes received by the Judicial Department for the housing specialist vacancy in the New Britain Housing Court. Two were of high and four of medium interest. Other Citizens Advisory Council members were called to obtain comments on all candidates.





A letter was sent to Judge Spada, detailing comments received regarding all candidates addressing the need for equal employment opportunity. Recommendations were to interview, not necessarily to hire, since Advisory Council members, with the exception of the Chairperson, were not given the opportunity to meet candidates in person. Nine candidates, including the six of highest interest to Advisory Council members, were offered interviews; eight appeared.

The Advisory Council Chairperson subsequently made written recommendations to Judge Spada and Frances Calafiore, Chief Housing Specialist. The top three were those of highest interest to Advisory Council members, with others ranked appropriately based on the interviews.

The candidate selected by Judge Spada is not one of the Citizens Advisory Council's top six, but was ranked fifth out of the eight candidates interviewed by the Advisory Council Chairperson. Her name has not been released for publication by the Judicial Department. She speaks fluent Spanish.

A MOTION (Greenblatt - Guertin) was VOTED that the Judicial Department, Housing Court, and Citizens Advisory Council develop an aggressive affirmative action program for the Housing Court, which will ensure the integration of Housing Court staff, especially within the job title of housing specialist, and recommended that the position of housing specialist be left unfilled until aggressive affirmative action recruitment takes place.

In Favor: 8

Opposed: 2

Abstention: 1

- (2) Forms Revision - Dale distributed copies of two frequently used court forms which the subcommittee has revised. The Council will be asked to vote on the revised forms when a larger number are ready.
- (3) Publicity and Community Education - Femia reported for Hanks that the English/Spanish, and Italian brochures will go to a printer next week. The Polish version needs further work.

D. Old Business

- (1) Additional Housing Court Proposal - Auger^u advised that a group from the Danbury area is working with a law student to submit a bill authorizing a Housing Court in their area. Auger^u has been asked to speak and discuss the process undergone in creating the Hartford area Housing Court.

Agenda items (a) and (b) under this Heading were Tabled. Item (d) was withdrawn.

E. New Business

- (1) Judge Commendation - A Court monitoring report from DeNigris and Shilinga and others who have observed the operations of the Housing Court will be made at the next meeting.

Agenda item (c) under this Heading was Tabled.

F. Executive Session

The Council voted unanimously to adjourn to Executive Session to discuss personnel matters.

The meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol A. Femia
Recording Secretary

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER



CORRECTIONS TO MINUTES OF
JULY 5th MEETING, P.A.

Tuesday July 8th

Dear Carol,

I am preparing a mailing for Hilda to send out in between Advisory Council meetings. The minutes could be sent out in advance also, but there are some factual problems with the section C (1) Personnel Committee Report that I would prefer be cleared up before the minutes get into print to avoid confusion and misunderstanding, since I doubt the public (or anyone) ever looks at minutes after they are corrected. Would it be o.k. with you to re-do the second page, and fix up a few words on the first page ?

On the first page, heading, there is no Department of Housing yet. The meeting took place at the: Office of the State Housing Advocate.

At the bottom of the first page, last line: "Other Advisory Council members were called to obtain comments on all candidates." (not just the six being recommended for interviews -- makes a difference -- e.g. to my phone bill !)

Second page, top paragraph, should be completely revised (sorry) to read as follows:

" A letter was sent to Judge Spada detailing comments received regarding all candidates and stressing the need for equal employment opportunity. Recommendations were to interview, not necessarily to hire, since Advisory Council members, with the exception of the Chairperson, were not given the opportunity to meet candidates in person. Nine candidates, including the six of highest interest to Advisory Council members, were offered interviews; eight appeared.

The Advisory Council Chairperson subsequently made written recommendations to Judge Spada and Frances Calafiore, Chief Housing Specialist. The top three were those of highest interest to Advisory Council members, with others ranked appropriately based on the interviews.

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Second page, Section E (1) Judge Commendation: A court monitoring report from DiNigris and Shilinga and others who have observed the operations of the Housing Court will be made at the next meeting.

Additions or changes indicated by underlining.

cc: Anne-Marie/Housing Advocates Office
(Please staple to minutes on file)

Many thanks,

Pat