

**TOWN OF BLACK MOUNTAIN
HOUSING COMMISSION
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
May 17, 2011**

The **Black Mountain Housing Commission** held its regular monthly meeting on **Tuesday, May 17, 2011 at 10:0 a.m.** in the Town Hall at 160 Midland Avenue, Black Mountain, N.C.

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order with the follow members present:

Connie Pruitt, Chair
Ruth Norton, Vice Chair
Levon Lindsey, Secretary
Phillip Bisesi
Joanne Brannon
Carolyn Copeland
Jeff Hunter
Chad Knight
Peter Vazquez

Staff:

Darlene Whisenant, Town Clerk

Other (s)

Joan Brown, Mayor Pro tem

Guest

Jonah Bolt

Chair Pruitt called the meeting to order with nine regular members. The meeting was duly constituted and opened for business.

II. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Levon Lindsey made a motion to adopt the agenda as written. Ruth Norton seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

III. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Carolyn Copeland made a motion to adopt the minutes of March 15, 2011. Peter Vazquez seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

IV. INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBER

Chair Pruitt introduced Peter Vazquez. Peter resigned from the Commission to take care of personal family matters and reapplied and was reappointed by the Board of Aldermen.

V. BUSINESS

1. Recap of Homebuyers Expo

Chair Pruitt expressed disappointment with attendance at the expo which was scheduled from 5:30 until 7:30 pm on Thursday, April 14, 2011. The vendors were eager and ready to provide information but unfortunately public participation was limited. Several scenarios may have contributed to the lack of participants; however, First Citizens Bank has offered to sponsor another expo at a later time if the Commission desires.

2. Educational Class sponsored by On-Track Financial and Educational Counseling for June

The Commission briefly discussed the information on the flyer from OnTrack Financial. They will sponsor educational classes in the Town Hall on Saturdays, June 11 and 25 from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm.

3. Ramp Construction follow up

Levon Lindsey recommended that two residents in need of a ramp make application to Mountain Housing Opportunities.

4. Home Repair/yard clean-up projects for summer (Carolyn Copeland)

The Commission discussed what steps the Town has taken to enforce the clean-up of an empty lot at 115 West College Street. (The Zoning Administrator mailed a violation letter to the owner of the property (Certified Return Receipt) and it was returned unclaimed.) Ms. Copeland who resides next door to the lot, explained the neighbor's situation and complained that there are also squatters residing on the property at night. She will try to obtain a better mailing address for the Zoning Administrator to re-send the letter. Chair Pruitt encouraged the Housing Commission to contact SVCM (Swannanoa Valley Christian Ministry) if you know of needs in this area.

5. Election of Officers/Cancellation of June Meeting

Chair Pruitt recommended that the June 22, 2011 meeting be cancelled due to lack of business and the un-availability of members to attend to constitute a quorum. The Commission voted by consensus to cancel the June meeting. The next regular meeting will be July 19, 2011 and the Commission will need to elect new officers for the coming year. Chair Pruitt said that her term and Joanne Brannon's terms will end in July and neither will seek re-appointment. She encouraged the Commission to consider and recommend new applicants to fill the vacancies.

VI. STAFF AND MEMBER REPORTS AND COMMUNICATION

Joanne Brannon reported that the Town Square Steering Committee has contracted with Martin, Alexander and Bryson, consultants, to schedule Charettes (design workshops) for the Town property on June 8, 9, and 10. She encouraged all board members to attend.

Chair Pruitt distributed a brochure with information on reverse mortgages. The contact person is Glenn Kavanagh with New American Mortgage at www.newamerican.com. He participated in the Homebuyers Expo and she encouraged interested parties to contact him.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT

Phillip Bisesi introduced Jonah Bolt. Mr. Bolt shared his project regarding GEO Dome's as an alternative for affordable housing. He is interested in becoming more involved in the community.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Carolyn Copeland made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:45 am. Joanne Brannon seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Connie Pruitt, Chair

Levon Lindsey, Secretary

Rosa B. Hilbert, Senior Admin. Assistant