

MARYLAND REAL ESTATE COMMISSION
500 North Calvert Street
Baltimore, MD 21202

Mission: Protecting the health, safety, and welfare of the public
through examination, licensing, and regulatory activities regarding real estate

BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES
June 16, 2021 10:30 a.m.
(held via Google Meet)

PRESENT:

Commissioner Kambon Williams (Consumer)
Commissioner Anne Cooke (Industry)
Commissioner Demetria Scott (Industry)
Commissioner Michelle Wilson (Consumer)
Charlene Faison, Education Director, Session Recorder
Michael Kasnic, Executive Director
Jillian Lord, Asst. Executive Director
Jessica Praley, AAG
Gregory Morgan, Commission, Dept of Labor
Commissioner Donna Horgan (Industry)
Kausar Syed, Deputy Commissioner, Dept of Labor
Commissioner Marla Johnson (Industry)
Edwin Santiago, MREC Investigator
Commissioner Jacinta Bottoms-Spencer (Industry)

ABSENT:

Commissioner Karen Baker (Consumer)
Commissioner Michael Lord (Consumer)

PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE:

Erica Panjehshahi, Long & Foster
Nick D'Ambrosia, Broker, Long & Foster
Barbara Maloney
Susan Mitchell, MR
Bob Pettis, Long & Foster
Jason Brand, AACAR
JC Hooker
Katalin Peter, GCAAR
Matthew Peterson, Coldwell Banker RE School
Kathie Connelly, Broker
Brenda Kasuva, MREEA
Jenifer League, GBBR
Martha Eaheart

Lee Butler Taylore, Director, The Agency Institute
Kimberly Gourdy

CALL TO ORDER:

Anne Cooke, Chair Pro Tempore, called the meeting to order at 10:37 AM.

Commissioners introduced themselves.

ELECTION OF CHAIR PRO TEMPORE

Commissioner Scott nominates Commissioner Anne Cooke. Commissioner Cooke accepts nomination. Commissioner Williams abstained from vote as he was late joining meeting; all others in favor. **Motion carried.**

ELECTION OF CHAIR FOR THE NEXT YEAR

Commissioner Scott nominates Commissioner Anne Cooke for chair; nomination for chair seconded by Commissioner Johnson. Commissioner Scott moves to close nominations; request seconded by Commissioner Johnson.

All in favor: Commissioners Johnson, Wilson, Scott, Horgan, Williams. Absent: Commissioners Baker and Lord. Abstaining: Commission Spencer-Bottoms. **Motion carried.**

Commissioner Johnson nominates Commissioner Scott for vice-chair; nomination second by Commissioner Williams. Nominations closed.

All in favor: Commissioners Johnson, Wilson, Cooke, Horgan, Williams. Absent: Commissioners Baker and Lord. Abstaining: Commissioner Spencer-Bottoms. **Motion carried.**

REPORT OF COMPLAINTS/ADMINISTRATIVE DISMISSALS:

Motion (made by Marla Johnson, seconded by Kambon Williams) **To approve the Administrative Dismissals for the month of June 2021. Commissioners Bottoms-Spencer and Horgan abstained. Motion carried.**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion (made by Marla Johnson, seconded by Kambon Williams) **To approve the minutes, with amendments, of the May 19, 2021 business meeting. Commissioners Horgan and Bottoms-Spencer abstained.**

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Education
 - For the month of May 2021, PSI administered 1257 salesperson and 112 broker exams compared to no exams being administered in May 2020 due to COVID-19 Pandemic and test centers were closed.
 - Charlene Faison attended the MREEA June 10, 2021 meeting and reports the organization is in favor of the continuation of virtual CE. They are concerned about agents seeing gaps in licenses due to extended expiration dates ending. They would like to see the exam information on the MREC website updated.

- Next meeting for the Education Committee is June 22, 2021 at 11AM.
 - Virtual learning task force met for a little over an hour. In attendance were Jessica Praley, Commissioners Lord and Scott, Education Director Charlene Faison, and Susan Mitchell, MR. Absent was Commissioner Wilson. Invited, but not in attendance, was Brenda Kasuva, MREEA. The recommendations were (1) virtual classes, for CE and Principles & Practices, to continue. (2) ID checks were discussed and should remain what the Committee previously agreed upon and (3) Monitor to student ratios should be the same as cited in current COMAR.
 - When the Education Committee meets on Tuesday, it will review the recommendations of the task force and make comments.
- Legislative – Marla Johnson, Legislative Chair
 - Marla Johnson, Chair, - No comment.

COMMENTS FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: Michael Kasnic

- Edwin Santiago, MREC’s newest investigator, introduced. He’s a former Marine, served in law enforcement and now with the Dept. of Labor.
- Yesterday, June 15, 2021, marked the end of the extensions for renewals; all were reminded MREC has no control over the release of tax liens and credit reports, for brokers, must include a search of public records.
- Staff has been participating in several task forces.
- Work with Enovational continues.
- Mrs. Faison did attend MREEA meeting and concerns of the group will be addressed. Certificates of Licensure are provided as they stand. It is a structure in place for all board concerns to be taken into consideration but gaps in licenses is not just a MREC issue.
- Mr. Kasnic acknowledges exam information online is not current but responding to consumer needs takes precedence over updating the web but the stats will be updated soon.
- There was a substantial drop in the license count due to the drop-off of extended licenses. Current license count totals 47,048 of which 4,109 are brokers, 2,986 are associate brokers and 39,314 are salespersons, 141 are reciprocal brokers, 61 are reciprocal associate brokers, and 437 are reciprocal salesperson. Inactive total was not reported. There are 686 branch offices.
- Complaints remain steady.

COMMENTS FROM COUNSEL: Jessica Praley, AAG

- No update to last month’s report.
- Welcomed new Commissioners.

COMMENTS FROM ACTING CHAIR: Anne Cooke

- Commissioners Horgan and Bottoms-Spencer welcomed.
- Jillian Lord and Anne Cooke are registered for the ARELLO meeting June 30 – July 3, 2021.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- Dept. of Labor Commissioner, Gregory Morgan, commented that we are in the process of a

re-entry plan. Business meetings will be in person. They can be hybrid but those that want to come in must register.

- Susan Mitchell, MR, welcomed the new commissioners and inquired if a new member of the Education Committee will be assigned soon.

NEW BUSINESS:

- None.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:25 A.M.. The next monthly business meeting is Wednesday, July 21, 2021.

Counsel announced the hearing scheduled for this afternoon has been postponed.

APPROVED AS PRESENTED _____
Chair, Anne Cooke

APPROVED AS AMENDED _____
Chair, Anne Cooke