



MINUTES
CITY OF AUSTIN EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, January 29, 2019 – 1:30 PM
6850 Austin Center Blvd., Suite 320, Austin, TX 78731

Board Members Present

Michael Benson
Eyna Canales-Zarate
Amy Hunter
Yuejiao Liu
Frank Merriman
Chris Noak
Randy Spencer
Ed Van Eenoo

Board Members Absent

Stephanie Beach
Leslie Pool
Anthony B. Ross, Sr.

Others Present

Staff:
Christopher Hanson
Russell Nash
Donna Boykin
David T. Veal
David Stafford
Julie Barschow
Sarah McCleary
Michelle Mahaini
Yun Quintanilla

Guests:
Paige Saenz, General Counsel
Selena Xie, Austin EMS
Association

1. Call meeting to order – Chair Noak

Chair Chris Noak called the meeting to order at 1:38 p.m.

2. Call roll of Trustees – Chair Noak

The secretary called the roll and the following Trustees were present: Benson, Canales-Zarate, Hunter, Liu, Merriman, Noak, Spencer, and Van Eenoo

3. Review order of business

Chair Noak reviewed the order of business.

4. Receive System member and public comments – Chair Noak

(This item was taken out of order and after agenda item 5.)

Ms. Selena Xie of the Austin EMS Association introduced herself and noted that she looked forward to working with the Board on behalf of EMS employees.

5. Election of 2019 Officers: Board Chair and Vice-Chair

Ms. Eyna Canales-Zarate nominated Mr. Mike Benson to serve as Chair. Mr. Ed Van Eenoo seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Mr. Noak passed the gavel to Mr. Benson.

Mr. Noak nominated Ms. Yuejiao Liu to serve as Vice-Chair. Ms. Canales-Zarate seconded. The motion failed to reach the six votes needed to pass.

Mr. Ed Van Eenoo nominated Ms. Eyna Canales-Zarate to serve as Vice-Chair. Mr. Randy Spencer seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Canales-Zarate noted that she would mentor Ms. Liu for a leadership position.

6. Receive reports on the following administrative matters – Chair Noak

A. Ethics policy disclosure statement

Key Staff Declarations:

Russell Nash declared meetings with Mary Dunn, Provaliant Consulting with a contingency of employees from the State of Nevada for a pension administration site visit; Stephen James, Linea Consultants with a contingency of employees from Cook County, Illinois for a pension administration site visit; Brent Jackson, Airco Mechanical; Sandy Halim, CEM Benchmarking; William Paul Mason, LexisNexis Risk Solutions; and Carolyn Knowles, State of Texas DIR Texas Online Authentication System.

Michelle Mahaini declared meetings with Tropical Plants, Go Pure Watertech, ABC Longhorn Movers, CBI furniture, Kucera Management, CC Construction, and AREMS.

Julie Barschow declared a box of holiday cookies delivered to and for the office from Imagine You Media.

Amy Kelley declared meetings with Imperfa, Darktrace, Mindshift, Whitehat, KnowBe4, Kudelski, TC Tech, Catapult, LRS, GTS, Sikich, NXSYS, DIR, AT&T, Spectrum, and Whitlock.

David Veal declared attendance at a LaSalle Real Estate Seminar with lunch provided, and meetings with Tom Clarkson from Pantheon, Tim Lyons from Lone Eagle Capital; Mariko Boswell, Kevin Gray, and Ashish Tiwari from PIMCO; Joe Gelly; Jonathan Alden and Tom Rose from BlackRock; Chris Von Barga and Vitaly Liberman from DoubleLine.

David Stafford declared meetings with Marielle Bush from Brigade Capital; Jay Pomatto from bfinance; Tom Clarkson from Pantheon; Greg Williams from Wellington; Steven Moen from Partners Group; Tom Rose and Jonathan Alden

from BlackRock; Kevin Gray, Mariko Boswell and Ashish Tiwari from PIMCO; Mary Davidson from Abel Noser; Tim Lyons from Lone Eagle Capital; Sean Borella from QMA; Tom Ferraro from Ultra Capital; Rich Peperone from Dyal BSP; Angela Merginoff from Income Research + Management; Alex Knapp from Herzfield; Robert Hiebert and Frank Donnelly from Duff & Phelps; Melissa Morris and Ashok Bhatia from Neuberger Berman; Ann-Marie Gehring, Dave Eichorn, Dan Schholz, Rick Ratoski and Grant Podolski from NISA; Iwan Djanili from AQR; Brian Burke from Bentall Kennedy; Mark Nigro and Dave Wahl from RARE Infrastructure; Benjamin Lazarus and Justin Henne from Parametric; Thomas Clancy, Alina Osorio and Vivian Chao from Fiera Infrastructure; Francis Semphill from Walter Scott; Vania Schleef and Eric Shirbini from Scientific Beta; Christopher Von Bargen, Vitaly Liberman and Chris Harlin from Doubleline.

B. Annual acknowledgement of ethics policy

Chair Benson reminded Trustees to sign acknowledgement of the COAERS Ethics Policy. Mr. Christopher Hanson reminded Trustees and Staff that training was available if there were questions on the policy.

C. 2018 Annual Financial Disclosure/Conflicts of Interest Affidavits

Chair Benson reminded Trustees to submit their notarized affidavits to the office.

7. Consent items – Board Chair:

All of the following items may be acted upon by one motion. No separate discussion or action on any of the items is necessary unless desired by a Board Member.

- A. December 11, 2018 Board Meeting Minutes**
- B. Ratification of October, November, and December 2018 retirement, death benefits, and refunds**
- C. Disability Committee recommendation on Disability Applications #7843 and #0151**

Chair Benson noted that there was no Committee Recommendation on Disability Application #0151; that item would be removed from the consent agenda. Mr. Noak moved to approve the consent agenda as amended. Mr. Frank Merriman seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

8. Discuss and consider Board self-evaluation process – Board Chair

Chair Benson recognized Mr. Noak to provide comments on the agenda item. Mr. Noak noted that he is interested in developing a more structured and quantifiable Board self-evaluation process. He noted his preference to follow best practices in the area of Board self-evaluation with a process that held the Board accountable.

Trustees provided feedback on Mr. Noak's comments and discussed whether a review of the current Board self-evaluation process would be best at the Board level or Committee level. Direction was given for Staff to place this item on an upcoming Policy Committee agenda. The Board noted this matter should be handled expeditiously.

9. Discuss and consider executive director compensation and evaluation process – Board Chair

Mr. Noak reported that a market study of the compensation of the Executive Director position was begun in 2018 in order to better align compensation with COAERS' peers. It was noted that the Policy Committee would examine the study and consider what if any next steps should be taken. After discussion regarding the current evaluation process for the Executive Director position, Trustees requested that the Chair and Vice-Chair develop an evaluation process which can be presented to the Policy Committee prior to review by the Board.

10. Discuss and consider the Executive Director's report on the following matters – Christopher Hanson:

A. Operational matters including facilities and staffing

Mr. Hanson introduced Trustees to Yun Quintanilla, COAERS' new Accounting Director. He thanked Staff, especially Mr. Russell Nash, Ms. Michelle Mahaini and Ms. Amy Kelley for a smooth transition to the new Northpoint Offices and welcomed feedback on the new space.

B. Review 2019 meeting schedule and potential agenda items

Mr. Hanson shared a broad outline of potential agenda items that will be addressed by the Committees and the full Board during the year. Mr. Hanson received feedback to consider ways to ensure Trustees are prepared to discuss some of the most important items and whether some items should be presented at both Committee and Board meetings.

C. 86th Legislative Session

Mr. Hanson provided a report on legislative committee assignments and early bills filed that may impact COAERS.

D. Upcoming educational programs and conferences


Mr. Hanson noted that several educational opportunities had been added to the ongoing list and thanked Trustees for their commitment to meeting Pension Review Board training requirements.

11. Call for future agenda items

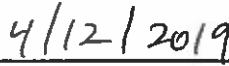
As there were no further items to address, the meeting adjourned at 2:48 p.m.



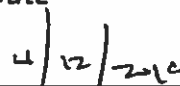
Mike Benson, Board Chair



Christopher Hanson, Executive Director



Date



Date