

DORCHESTER SENIORS, INC.
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
NOVEMBER 09, 2023
Location: DAVID SOJOURNER SENIOR CENTER
ST. GEORGE, SC

The Board of Directors meeting date and time were submitted for publication to the Summerville Journal Scene, St. George Eagle record and Post and Courier as well as posted at the Faith Sellers and the David Sojourner Senior Centers.

Board of Directors Attendance (Quorum status)

Baus, Donald	(L)	Parsons, Jan	
Cornette, Russ	(N)	Thomas, Diane	
Davis, Carol		Thomas, Frank	(A)
Hodges, James	(A)	Villeponteaux, James	(N)
Hudson, Tim		Watson, Felisa (Malika)	
Jones, Dianne	(N)	Watts, Emily	
Kelly, Pamela		Winston, Kathleen	
Lewis, Tim			

(A-Absent without Notification) (N-Absent with Notification) (L-Late) (LE-Left Early)
(R-Resigned) (V-Virtual)

CALL TO Order: Chairman Emily Watts called the meeting to order at 8:30 AM.

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE: LaQuinta West, Brandi Chambers, Darline Brogdon

QUORUM CONFIRMED: Secretary Diane Thomas

MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA: Motion to approve agenda by Tim Lewis with a second by Haren Main. Motion carried.

MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES: Motion to approve the minutes of September 14, 2023 by Carol Davis with a second by Malika Watson.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE: Chairman Watts advised that several comments were made by attendees and Board Members at the October 7, 2023 St. George event regarding inappropriate attire, language, music played, dance movements, hugging, etc. She then read a prepared statement from Sharon Sellers, the Human Resources Consultant, regarding the continuance of professionalism by Board Members and Staff at all DSI events.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE: CHAIRMAN HAREN MAIN

Treasurer Main advised there would be no Finance Reports at today's meeting due to the existing circumstance of the resignation of the Finance Manager.

Motion was then made by Treasurer Main to go into **Executive Session** for part of his report with a second by Tim Hudson. Motion carried with all non-board members then asked to leave the room. **Executive Session began.**

Several items were then presented to the Board for discussion.

Following completion of the current Executive Session, Carol Davis motioned to adjourn the **Executive Session** with a second by Diane Thomas. Motion carried with no discussion. **Executive Session was adjourned.**

Chairman Main then called for a vote on the three (3) motions that were presented during the Executive Session. The motions were all approved and passed by the Board of Directors.

Following this session of the Finance Committee Report, Chairman Watts called for a ten (10) minute break. Following the break, Chairman Watts called the Board back into **Executive Session** with approvals from Haren Main and Tim Hudson. Motion passed.

Treasurer Main then stated he had a new motion to present that states DSI adopt a policy whereby all new hires up to, and including Executive Director, be subject to a six (6) month probationary period to be effective immediately. Said policy is currently not stated in the Employee Handbook but should be added immediately. Motion was made by Haren Main with a second by Malika Watson. Motion passed.

Chairman Watts requested that all Staff members and the Acting Executive Director then step out of the regular meeting. She then announced that the Executive Committee had voted unanimously to hire LaQuinta West as the new Executive Director for Dorchester Seniors Inc. Mrs. West and Staff members were then invited to return to the meeting. Chairman Watts then presented the recommendation from the Executive Committee naming LaQuinta West the Executive Director of Dorchester Senior's Inc. The new Executive Director received a round of applause as she was congratulated on her new position.

NOMINATING: CHAIRMAN TIM HUDSON

Membership elections were held on November 8, 2023 with Margaret Goodwine elected to the vacant seat for a two (2) year term beginning on January 01, 2024. Pamela Kelly then nominated Ruthie Sojourner Tripp to the open Board position. She was elected to the position by the Board, also for a two (2) year term beginning on January 01, 2024.

Chairman Hudson then requested that Treasurer Haren Main leave the room as he was nominated and reelected to another two (2) year term as Treasurer of DSI effective January 1, 2024.

Secretary Diane Thomas was then requested to leave the room as she was nominated and reelected to another two (2) year term as Secretary of DSI effective January 1, 2024.

Chairman Hudson concluded his Nomination report.

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE: CHAIRMAN PAMELA KELLY

Chairman Kelly then reported on the October 7th, 2023 event held at the Davis-Bailey Park in St. George. The event was well received by the attendees and enjoyed by all.

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE: No report

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT: LAQUINTA WEST

Director West took this opportunity to thank the Board of Directors for naming her the new Executive Director effective immediately. She was well received by the Board of Directors as she updated the Board on activities at the Faith Sellers Senior Center in Summerville and the David Sojourner Senior Center in St. George. She advised that all was well with the centers. She concluded her report by stating all of staff are working together promoting a friendly and helpful atmosphere.

Chairman Watts announced there was no old business for discussion. She announced that new business involved the distribution of the 2024 meeting schedule. Brandi Chambers will update the Daylight Savings Time for March 2024 and November 2024 and will submit an updated schedule to Board members.

Chairman Watts announced the next Board Meeting will be held on January 11, 2024 at 8:30 AM at the David Sojourner Senior Center in St. George, SC.

Motion was made by Tim Lewis and seconded by Pamela Kelly to adjourn the November 9, 2023 Board meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 10:40 AM.

Respectfully submitted by Secretary Diane Thomas