



# City of Milwaukee

P.O. Box 324  
Milwaukee, WI 53201-0324

## Meeting Minutes

### HOUSING AUTHORITY

*CHARLOTTE HAYSLETT, Chair*

*Karen Gotzler, Vice Chair*

*Irma Yepez Klassen, Jackie Burrell, Ald. Sharlen Moore,*

*Howard Snyder, and James Nelson, Sr.*

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Tuesday, February 17, 2026

8:15 AM

Hillside Family Resource Center  
1452 N. Seventh St., Milwaukee WI 53205

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#### Special Meeting

The mission of the Housing Authority of the City of Milwaukee (HACM) is to foster strong, resilient and inclusive communities by providing a continuum of high-quality housing options that support self-sufficiency, good quality of life, and the opportunity to thrive.

#### Call to Order

*Meeting called to order at 8:42 a.m.*

#### Roll Call

**Present:** 7 - Gotzler, Snyder, Yepez Klassen, Moore, Hayslett, Burrell, Nelson

1. [R13727](#) Interview with Candidate Berdie Cowser Beginning at 8:30 AM

**Sponsors:** THE CHAIR

*The interview began with an explanation that transparency and community engagement were core goals within the HACM Board of Commissioners' process of hiring a new Secretary-Executive Director. This led to the creation of several forums featuring the four selected candidates with various constituencies, such as community partners, employees and, most critically, residents and the public, including an appearance on a local radio station. Each forum, hosted with a Commissioner, provided a mechanism for the constituency to submit questions before and during the forum, alongside those of HR professionals and industry experts, and allowed the persons present to provide feedback that will be shared with the Board for their consideration. These interviews by the Board of Commissioners with each candidate were also open to public viewing and feedback.*

*The Commissioners asked the same questions of each of the candidates. The candidates had three minutes to respond to each question. The candidates provided answers about their backgrounds, strategic thinking, history of budgeting, relationships with Boards, their leadership style and how they would balance multiple priorities.*

*After each Commissioner had asked questions, the candidates presented their response to a practical exercise which they were provided earlier. The Commissioners*

*acknowledged that the responses given today, based solely on the materials provided, may not correlate to what any chosen candidate might decide to do with additional information at hand once they would actually be in the position.*

*The Commissioners also responded to any questions the candidates had.*

*The HACM Board of Commissioners thanked the constituents who participated in the various forums. The Commissioners acknowledge that the participants may have strong feelings based on what they saw of the candidates during their forum, and that the Commissioners are eager to hear that feedback. The Board will then be taking in all of the information available to them for their consideration, including the interviews, the practical exercise, resumes and other materials, the candidates' skills, experience and references, in addition to the forums, the feedback received, etc., which will allow the Commissioners a unique perspective to make the best overall selection for the position, as the body wholly responsible for the selection.*

*The Board then went in to recess until the next scheduled interview at 10 a.m.*

HACM Counsel Greg Kruse reminded the Commissioners that new questions which weren't asked of the first candidate could not be added, in order to ensure all candidates were asked the same questions. Only follow-up questions related to responses of those initial questions were allowable.

2. [R13728](#) Interview with Candidate Ralph Jordan Beginning at 10:00 AM

**Sponsors:** THE CHAIR

*The Board reconvened from recess at 10:24 a.m.*

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*The Board then went in to recess until the next scheduled interview at Noon.*

3. [R13729](#) Interview with Candidate Harold S. Ince, Jr. Beginning at Noon

**Sponsors:** THE CHAIR

*The Board reconvened from recess at 12:10 p.m.*

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*The Board then went in to recess until the next scheduled interview at 3:30 p.m*

**4. [R13730](#)** Interview with Candidate Keon Jackson Beginning at 3:30 PM

**Sponsors:** THE CHAIR

*The Board reconvened from recess at 3:36 p.m.*

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**Adjournment**

*There being no further business, Commissioner Moore made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:01 p.m. Commissioner Nelson seconded the motion. There being no objections, the motion carried.*

*Minutes prepared by Patricia Dee.*

Upon reasonable notice, efforts will be made to accommodate the needs of persons with disabilities through sign language interpreters or auxiliary aids. For additional information or to request this service, contact the Housing Authority ADA Coordinator at 286-5824, (FAX) 286-0833, (TDD) 286-3504 or by writing to the Coordinator at PO Box 324, Milwaukee, WI 53201-0324.

Persons engaged in lobbying as defined in s. 305-43-4 of the Milwaukee Code of Ordinances are required to register with the City Clerk's Office License Division. Registered lobbyists appearing before a Common Council committee are required to identify themselves as such. More information is available at <http://city.milwaukee.gov/Lobbying>.

Be hereby notified that three (3) members or more of the Housing Authority of the City of Milwaukee Executive Search Committee, Travaux, Inc. Board of Directors or the Crucible, Inc. Board of Directors may be present at the meeting of the Housing Authority of the City of Milwaukee Board of Commissioners, as some members serve on both boards. While a quorum of the HACM Executive Search Committee, Travaux, Inc. Board or Crucible, Inc. Board may be present at the HACM Board of Commissioners meeting, they will not exercise the responsibilities, authority, or duties vested in the HACM Executive Search Committee, Travaux, Inc. Board of Directors or the Crucible, Inc. Board of Directors.