

## SSHA<sup>3</sup>P Executive Board - Meeting Notes

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Thursday, February 24, 2022 (9:00am to 9:30am)

Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89999019201>

**Executive Board (EB) Members Present:** Mayor Backus, Councilmember Bryan, Executive Dammeier, Mayor Eiding, Councilmember Farmer, Councilmember George (Vice Chair), Councilmember Keith, Mayor Markley, Councilmember McCluskey, Councilmember Mello, Councilmember Neuman, Mayor Roscoe, Mayor Stryon Sherrell, Mayor Woodards (Chair), Deputy Mayor Witting

**Staff Present:** Joanne Gutierrez, Melanie Harding, Taylor Jones, Katrina Knutson, Bryan Schmid, Tiffany Speir, Joe van Dyk

**Guests:** Jason Gauthier

**Consultants/Facilitators:** John Howell

### [Update on SSHA<sup>3</sup>P Manager Hiring Process](#)

Chair Woodards called the meeting to order at 9:05am. She suggested that at future meetings it would be good practice to take attendance at the start of each meeting.

She said the Board would go into Executive Session for the purpose of evaluating the qualifications of applicants for the public employment (the SSHA<sup>3</sup>P Manager position). She asked if there was a motion to convene an Executive Session.

Board Discussion: Mayor Backus moved, and Councilmember George seconded a motion for the Board to convene into an Executive Session. The motion was approved unanimously.

### [Hiring Recommendation for SSHA<sup>3</sup>P Manager](#)

After the Executive Session the Board was called back to order by Mayor Woodards at 9:34am. Councilmember George, the Chair of the Hiring Subcommittee, provided an update on the hiring process. He said the subcommittee members included Mayor Backus, Mayor Markley, Deputy Mayor Witting, Mayor Woodards, and himself. The Staff Work Group had also been involved in conducting interviews.

Councilmember George reminded the Board that there was an initial round of interviews conducted last year. However, the Hiring Subcommittee members felt that the search process should continue. The county made revisions to the job title, job description and salary range, and the job was readvertised. There was a stronger response to this most recent advertisement. The Staff Work Group interviewed five candidates and recommended three for interviews with the Board Hiring Subcommittee. The subcommittee conducted those interviews and also asked staff to conduct reference checks on two of the final candidates. Based on the interviews and the reference checks the subcommittee members unanimously recommend to the Board that Jason Gauthier be hired as the SSHA<sup>3</sup>P Manager. Jason is currently the Director

of Operations and Government Affairs for Habitat for Humanity. Councilmember George said Jason knows the Pierce County community very well and also knows a great deal about housing policy and how to build affordable housing units.

Board Discussion: Several subcommittee members provided comments. It was noted that there were three strong candidates, each of whom would bring different strengths to the position. Several subcommittee members spoke about Jason's passion for this work, and his understanding of the affordable/attainable housing needs in Pierce County and the partners that SSHA<sup>3</sup>P will need to work with.

Board members asked several questions about Jason's experience and his responses during the interviews, including: whether he was skilled at working with state legislators and other elected officials; whether he understood the wide range of needs and interests among SSHA<sup>3</sup>P members. Subcommittee members said he had quite a bit of experience working with elected leaders, and that two of his references were state legislators. They also said he spoke in his interview about the need to find projects and activities that all members of SSHA<sup>3</sup>P would find useful, across their range of interests. Several Board members who have worked with Jason in the past spoke highly about his ability to get things done, and his commitment to creating more opportunities for affordable housing.

Executive Dammeier made a motion to recommend to the County that the SSHA<sup>3</sup>P Manager position be offered to Jason Gauthier. Councilmember George seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously by the Board.

Chair Woodards invited Jason to make comments to the Board. He said he was honored by the comments made by Board members and that he looked forward to discussing the job offer with the County.

### Adjourn

Mayor Backus made a motion to adjourn. It was seconded by Councilmember George and approved unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:45am.