MINUTES

The first meeting of the Future Visioning Task Force of the Alabama Real Estate Commission was held July 15 2011, in the Commission Hearing Room of The Alabama Real Estate Commission, 1201 Carmichael Way, Montgomery, Alabama.

Those present were task force members Chairman Sheila Hodges and Commissioners Danny Sharp and Nancy Wright. Also present were Executive Director Philip Lasater and Assistant Executive Director Patricia Anderson.

The meeting having been duly noticed according to the Open Meetings Act was called to order at 11:20 a.m. by Chairman Sheila Hodges.

Chairman Hodges began with asking the group to explore ways to better orient new Commissioners. The following items were suggested:

- Explain the mechanics of meetings; i.e., where to sit, how the meeting would flow, etc.
- Provide information on the Ethics Law.
- Explain ex parte communication and the expected conduct of Commissioners.
- Possibly film a meeting to share with new Commissioners in advance of their first meeting.
- Find ways to build Commissioner relationships such as having the opportunity to get together in casual settings that are not business meetings with this being particularly important when new Commissioners join the group.
- Give new Commissioners more information in the beginning about hearings and how they are conducted and provide examples of prior cases.
- Seek input from former Commissioners and gather their ideas of what would have been helpful to them.
- Make a video message from past Commissioners or Commission Chair to include in the orientation.
- Provide a mentor for new Commissioners.

Chairman Hodges asked that a letter be sent to past Commissioners seeking their input for a segment of the New Commissioner Orientation.

In other matters, Commissioner Sharp asked if the Real Estate Commission can help new companies properly set up their company bank accounts. Chairman Hodges commented that while this is not in the Commission's purview, we probably need higher requirements to become a qualifying broker. Commissioner Wright commented that raising the standards would advance the professionalism of the industry and suggested that basic guidelines could be developed to assist qualifying brokers.

The final discussion pinpointed the need to be able to call on prior Commissioners to help get legislation passed.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

Sheila Hodges, Chairman

Patricia Anderson, Recording Secretary