

MARYLAND REAL ESTATE COMMISSION
500 North Calvert Street
Baltimore, MD 21202

Mission: Protecting the health, safety, and welfare of the public
through examination, licensing, and regulatory activities regarding real estate

BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES
April 20, 2016, 10:30 a.m.

Highlights from the meeting:

- Current license count is 41,065
- February guaranty fund balance is \$938,178.12
- March guaranty fund balance is \$941,671.01
- Agency Training Committee will be created to rewrite MREC Agency outline

PRESENT:

Commissioner Anne Cooke (Industry)
Commissioner Karen Baker (Consumer)
Commissioner Marla Johnson (Industry)
Commissioner Jeff Wright (Industry)
Commissioner Robin Pirtle (Consumer)
Commissioner J. Nicholas D'Ambrosia, Chair (Industry)
Commissioner James Reeder (Consumer)
Commissioner Jeff Wright (Industry)
Paulette Wirsching, AAG
Katherine F. Connelly, Executive Director
Charlene Faison, Education Administrator, Session Recorder

ABSENT:

PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE:

Mark Feinroth, MAR
Bob Johnston, AACAR
Dwayne Mingo, PGCAR

CALL TO ORDER:

J. Nicholas D'Ambrosia, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:28 a.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion (made by Karen Baker, seconded by Anne Cooke) **To approve the minutes of the March 16, 2016 business meeting. Unanimous approval.**

REPORT OF COMPLAINTS/ADMINISTRATIVE DISMISSALS:

Motion (made by Marla Johnson, seconded by Jeff Wright) **To approve the Administrative Dismissals for the month of April 2016. Motion carried.**

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. Education – Exam statistics read silently.
 - For the month of March 2016 PSI administered 992 salesperson and 41 broker exams, compared to 904 salesperson and 65 broker exams in March 2015.
 - Jeff Wright volunteered to chair the Education Committee
2. Legislative – Marla Johnson, Legislative Chair
 - No comments from Commissioner Johnson.
 - Ms. Connelly informs Commission that next month, Brian Weeks, AAG, will do a full review of bills that may or may not affect the MREC. Among them, HB 747, the water sewer, service provider and education bills. Decision will also be made on most effective way to communicate information to licensees. Suggestions include dissemination of information via media outlets like Baltimore Sun and Washington Post newspapers.

COMMENTS FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: Katherine F. Connelly

1. Current license count totals 41,065, of which 4,364 are brokers, 3,043 are associate brokers, 32,699 salespersons, 586 branch offices, 102 reciprocal brokers, 33 reciprocal associate brokers, and 235 reciprocal salespersons. Of the total count, 1,666 are inactive.
2. Guaranty Fund Balance for February is \$938,178.12 with \$1,350.00 paid out in claims. Guaranty Fund Balance for March is \$941,671.01 with \$11,067.11 paid out in claims.
3. With respect to the HUD document sent out, the Commission received several thank yous and received a request that we create an acceptable addendum to be available to licensees.
4. A discussion will be had with Brian Weeks upon his return to the office regarding the expiration dates for inactive status and for expired licenses. All Commissioners agree to review applicable sections of the law and work to have law amended to correct inactive law to read that if you expire on inactive status then the license itself expires.
5. At last month's meeting, Ms. Connelly advised she'd reach out to other states to see how their education departments were set up and the process for approval of courses and/or instructors. The responses were compiled into an Excel spreadsheet for review. Commissioners agree to review document and will provide suggestions in three weeks.
6. Commissioners received a copy of an email from an approved education provider, questioning requirements of providers offering distance learning courses. Brian Weeks is assisting with preparing a response in accordance to MREC laws and regulations as well as those of Maryland Higher Education Commission.
7. Agency Training Committee needs to be set up to revise the MREC Agency outline. Commissioners were encouraged to make suggestions of knowledgeable persons to serve on the committee. Chuck Kasky, MAR, has already agreed to be a part of it. It was decided that an email will go out to all school directors asking if they are interested in sitting in on the task force. The task force will also create an agency form to be available at open houses.
8. The Commission will start with a fresh list of approved instructors and there will now be a requirement that you must teach the course at least once every 6 months.
9. Ms. Connelly will be traveling to NAR conference in Washington, DC in May. She will have meetings with the CFPB, NAR and ARELLO.
10. **Motion** (made by Jeff Wright, seconded by Marla Johnson) **To approve the planning and hosting of the Broker Town Meetings in 2017. Motion carried.**
11. Next meeting is May 18, 2016.

COMMENTS FROM COUNSEL: Paulette Wirsching

- No comments.

COMMENTS FROM CHAIR: J. Nicholas D'Ambrosia

- None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- None

NEW BUSINESS:

- None

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:03 P.M. The next monthly business meeting is Wednesday, May 18, 2016.

APPROVED AS PRESENTED _____
J. Nicholas D'Ambrosia, Chairperson

APPROVED AS AMENDED _____
J. Nicholas D'Ambrosia, Chairperson