In The Matter Of:

EAST CHICAGO REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION EAST CHICAGO, INDIANA

ORIGINAL

REGULAR MEETING April 19, 2022

BOSS REPORTERS

Gary * Merrillville * Valparaiso, Indiana 3893 East Lincoln Highway (Rt. 30) Merrillville, Indiana 46410 (219) 769-9090



Original File 04-19-22 ECR.txt

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1	STATE OF INDIANA)
2) SS: COUNTY OF LAKE)
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4	DEEODE MUR HAGE GUTGAGA
5	BEFORE THE EAST CHICAGO REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
6	EAST CHICAGO, INDIANA
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8	REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS had at the meeting
9	before the East Chicago Redevelopment Commission,
10	reported by Kristen K. Stokes, CSR, Notary Public in
11	and for the County of Lake, State of Indiana, taken
12	via Zoom Video-Conferencing to be held at City Hall
13	Council Chambers, 4525 Indianapolis Boulevard, East
14	Chicago, Indiana 46312, on April 5, 2022, scheduled
15	to begin at 5:00 p.m. in the evening.
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21	BOSS REPORTERS & VIDEOCONFERENCING
22	GARY * MERRILLVILLE * VALPARAISO, INDIANA (219) 769-9090
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1	APPEARANCES (IN PERSON):
2	
3	Rodger Gates, Board Vice President
4	Christopher French, Board Secretary
5	Delainah Valdez-Medina, Board Commissioner
6	Randall Artis, Board Commissioner
7	Frank Rivera, Executive Director
8	Shelice Tolbert, Attorney
9	Thomas Mesich, Financial Advisor
10	
11	
12	APPEARANCES (VIA ZOOM):
13	Christine Russell, Board President
14	Lyvette Turk, CD Programs Manager
15	Karl Cender, Cender Dalton
16	and
17	Members of the Public
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1	PRESIDENT RUSSELL: Okay. I'd like to go
2	ahead and call the meeting to order for the
3	East Chicago Redevelopment Commission regular
4	meeting, City Hall Council Chambers, 4525
5	Indianapolis Boulevard, Second Floor, East
6	Chicago, Indiana, April 19th, 2022, 5:00 p.m.
7	Please stand for the Pledge of
8	Allegiance.
9	(PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE WAS RECITED.)
10	PRESIDENT RUSSELL: Roll call, please.
11	SECRETARY FRENCH: Randall Artis?
12	COMMISSIONER ARTIS: Here.
13	SECRETARY FRENCH: Delainah Valdez-Medina?
14	COMMISSIONER VALDEZ-MEDINA: Present.
15	SECRETARY FRENCH: Christopher French?
16	Here.
17	Rodger Gates?
18	VICE PRESIDENT GATES: Here.
19	SECRETARY FRENCH: Christine Russell?
20	PRESIDENT RUSSELL: Here.
21	I'd like to go on for the approval of the
22	regular meeting minutes for the April 5th
23	meeting, 2022.
24	SECRETARY FRENCH: Motion to approve by
25	Christopher French.

1	VICE PRESIDENT GATES: Second, Rodger
2	Gates.
3	PRESIDENT RUSSELL: Motion was made by
4	Christopher French, second by Rodger Gates.
5	Any comments or questions?
6	Roll call, please.
7	SECRETARY FRENCH: Randall Artis?
8	COMMISSIONER ARTIS: Yes.
9	SECRETARY FRENCH: Delainah Valdez-Medina?
10	COMMISSIONER VALDEZ-MEDINA: Yes.
11	SECRETARY FRENCH: Christopher French?
12	Yes.
13	Rodger Gates?
14	VICE PRESIDENT GATES: Yes.
15	SECRETARY FRENCH: Christine Russell?
16	PRESIDENT RUSSELL: Yes. Motion carried.
17	We'll now go on to the dockets with
18	Frank.
19	EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RIVERA: Yes. Good
20	evening, Mrs. President, Mr. Vice President
21	and all the members. We really appreciate
22	you coming out today so we can take care of
23	our business. We'll start off with the
24	approval of the dockets tonight.
25	And the first one is the City of East

1	Chicago accounts payable warrant report,
2	which is dated 4/13/2022, Warrant Number
3	041922RD in the amount of \$59,812.85. If I
4	can have a motion, please.
5	SECRETARY FRENCH: Motion to approve by
6	Christopher French.
7	COMMISSIONER VALDEZ-MEDINA: Second,
8	Valdez-Medina.
9	PRESIDENT RUSSELL: Motion was made by
10	Christopher French, second by Delainah
11	Valdez-Medina. Any comments or questions?
12	Roll call, please.
13	SECRETARY FRENCH: Randall Artis?
14	COMMISSIONER ARTIS: Yes.
15	SECRETARY FRENCH: Delainah Valdez-Medina?
16	COMMISSIONER VALDEZ-MEDINA: Yes.
17	SECRETARY FRENCH: Christopher French?
18	Yes.
19	Rodger Gates?
20	VICE PRESIDENT GATES: Yes.
21	SECRETARY FRENCH: Christine Russell?
22	PRESIDENT RUSSELL: Yes. Motion carried.
23	EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RIVERA: Thank you.
24	Our next item on the agenda is another
25	approval of the dockets, and it's the City of

1	East Chicago accounts payable warrant report,
2	and that's for the date of 4/13/2022, and the
3	warrant number is 041222RD in the amount of
4	\$22,425. If I can have a motion.
5	COMMISSIONER VALDEZ-MEDINA: Motion for
6	approval, Valdez-Medina.
7	COMMISSIONER ARTIS: Second, Randy Artis.
8	PRESIDENT RUSSELL: Motion was made by
9	Delainah Valdez-Medina, second by Randy
10	Artis. Any comments or questions?
11	(INAUDIBLE CONVERSATION.)
12	EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RIVERA: All right.
13	So we go on to the next one, which is the
14	SECRETARY FRENCH: We didn't do roll
15	call.
16	EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RIVERA: Oh, yes. You
17	threw me off.
18	SECRETARY FRENCH: Randall Artis?
19	COMMISSIONER ARTIS: Yes.
20	PRESIDENT RUSSELL: Any other comments or
21	questions?
22	VICE PRESIDENT GATES: No.
23	PRESIDENT RUSSELL: Roll call, please.
24	SECRETARY FRENCH: Randall Artis?
25	COMMISSIONER ARTIS: Yes.

1	SECRETARY FRENCH: Delainah Valdez-Medina?
2	COMMISSIONER VALDEZ-MEDINA: Yes.
3	SECRETARY FRENCH: Christopher French?
4	Yes.
5	Rodger Gates?
6	VICE PRESIDENT GATES: Yes.
7	SECRETARY FRENCH: Christine Russell?
8	PRESIDENT RUSSELL: Yes. Motion carried.
9	EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RIVERA: Thank you.
10	We now turn our attention to the Harborside
11	Apartments Vendor Aging Report. That's based
12	on the billing date as of 4/13/2022, and the
13	total for that Vendor Aging Report is
14	\$156,130.44. That's \$156,130.44. If I can
15	have a motion, please.
16	COMMISSIONER VALDEZ-MEDINA: Motion for
17	approval, Valdez-Medina.
18	VICE PRESIDENT GATES: Rodger Gates,
19	second.
20	PRESIDENT RUSSELL: Motion was made by
21	Delainah Valdez-Medina, second by Rodger
22	Gates. Any comments or questions?
23	Roll call, please.
24	SECRETARY FRENCH: Randall Artis?
25	COMMISSIONER ARTIS: Yes.

1	SECRETARY FRENCH: Delainah Valdez-Medina?
2	COMMISSIONER VALDEZ-MEDINA: Yes.
3	SECRETARY FRENCH: Christopher French?
4	Yes.
5	Rodger Gates?
6	VICE PRESIDENT GATES: Yes.
7	SECRETARY FRENCH: Christine Russell?
8	PRESIDENT RUSSELL: Yes. Motion carried.
9	EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RIVERA: Thank you,
10	Commissioners.
11	Now we're going to turn our attention
12	over to Ms. Lyvette Turk, who's going to have
13	two pieces of information that she's going to
14	go through with all of you. And the first
15	one would be the fiscal year 2022 CDBG public
16	service application submissions.
17	Thank you, Lyvette, you can take it over.
18	MS. LYVETTE TURK: Thank you, Frank.
19	Good evening, Commissioners and Attorney
20	Shelice.
21	PRESIDENT RUSSELL: Good evening.
22	MS. LYVETTE TURK: We had a very good
23	turn out at both of the application
24	workshops. We held one on March 29th and one
25	on April 7th. Between both of those, we had

1 approximately 20 agencies that were 2 represented, and most of those agencies 3 actually applied or submitted an application. 4 We also had a software training on March 5 31st for those who were new to the electronic 6 software. 7 Tonight I'm going to read the names of 8 the organizations that submitted an 9 application, which was due on yesterday at 10 12:00 noon. That was April 18th at 12:00 11 And I'll read the amount of CDBG funds noon. 12 requested along with the program or project 13 name. 14 Boys & Girls Club of Greater Northwest 15 Indiana for their program Triple Play 16 Program, CDBG amount requested: \$5,000. 17 Catholic Charities, their Save Haven 18 Homeless Prevention Program, CDBG amount 19 requested: \$55,000. 20 Dunes Learning Center for their Summer 21 Camp Scholarships, CDBG request: \$12,500. 22 Healthy East Chicago, Inc., for their 23 Youth Enrichment Support Program, also known 24 as YES, CDBG request: \$77,450. 25 Indiana Legal Services, Inc., for their

1	Legal Services Program, CDBG request:
2	\$23,000.
3	Indiana Plan For Equal Employment, Inc.,
4	for their Construction Awareness Training
5	Program, CDBG request: \$10,000.
6	Meals on Wheels of Northwest Indiana,
7	Inc., for their Meal Delivery Program, CDBG
8	request amount: \$40,000.
9	Managed East Chicago Housing Association,
10	also known as MECHA, for the Food Security
11	Program in the amount of \$30,000.
12	Mental Health America of Northwest
13	Indiana for their Parents As Teachers
14	Program, CDBG request amount: \$27,975.
15	New Horizons Child Care Ministry, Inc.,
16	Tuition Assistance Program: \$10,000.
17	Northwest Indiana reinvestment alliance,
18	Inc., for the Home Buying 101 Program in the
19	amount of \$16,800.
20	Positive Vibes Only Corporation for their
21	Positive Vibes Only Program. \$50,000 was
22	requested.
23	Top 20, Inc., for their Literacy Program
24	in the amount of \$25,000 in CDBG funds.
25	And then United Way of Northwest Indiana,

Level Up Program, CDBG requested amount: \$25,000.

And We Care From the Heart, Inc., for their Caring Hearts Residential Senior Services Program. CDBG requested amount is \$38,000. For a total request of \$445,725 is the amount that was requested.

I did give a handout tonight. I'll have to send it to Kristen. I'll send that via email before I leave today so that you'll have this in hand.

Estimated public service funds available. We're looking and using the fiscal year 2021 until we can get the actual amount from HUD, which they estimate that will happen sometime at the beginning of May. That will bring them right around to the 60 days, and that should be able to tell us what the actual amount is. But for right now we used the amount we got in 2021, the only amount we can put aside is \$206,000. So there's no way we can fund everybody for the amount that everybody asked for.

So with that we normally have staff -- Frank and I usually review the applications

and score them, but we also need two board members to be appointed to also review them. They will be reviewed electronically.

So Frank, I don't know if you -- how you want to do that.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RIVERA: I would suggest hopefully if someone could go ahead and volunteer rather than having to have them appointed because then Christine would have to do the appointment.

COMMISSIONER VALDEZ-MEDINA: I'll volunteer.

PRESIDENT RUSSELL: When do they have to be reviewed by, Lyvette?

MS. LYVETTE TURK: We have a little bit of time because we have to review them by the time -- HUD does the allocation. Once they actually tell us what the allocation is, they also have rules on how long we have to get it submitted. So I would expect sometime in June that we would need to be completed so that the consultants can go ahead and start with the draft. But I won't know until we actually get the actual allocations from HUD.

But I will tell you this: There is

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usually -- no matter how late they are in telling us the allocation, there is usually -- the final date you could submit even if you don't have the HUD allocation is usually around August 15th. So that's the date we're kind of dealing with, so we would really need to have this hopefully by mid June. If we can have them all scored and evaluated, that would help us because there's still work to be done on the plan once it's decided which ones you're going to fund. And I didn't want to -- I wanted to allow the consultants to have enough time to be able to really give us a good plan this year.

PRESIDENT RUSSELL: Do the two board members do it separately, or do they work together doing it?

MS. LYVETTE TURK: I mean, it's up to the two board members how they do it. You can work together. I can always print out the applications, but the scoring actually takes place online.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RIVERA: Delainah has just volunteered.

MS. LYVETTE TURK: Okay.

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PRESIDENT RUSSELL: If I volunteer, I have two comments. One, Frank, can I come to the office to do it electronically? And I would have to abstain on one of them. So is there somebody else that would volunteer? If not, I can do it for everything but that one. So I don't know if that would be considered a conflict of interest.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RIVERA: No, that wouldn't be considered a conflict of interest. I mean, you can abstain, and the other two would be averaged in -- or the other three: Myself, Lyvette and Delainah, so that would be three right there.

PRESIDENT RUSSELL: Okay.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RIVERA: Yeah, and I think you can come up here. I have to go ask administration to make sure that everything is okay because I got a small little laptop that can be used. Okay.

MS. LYVETTE TURK: Okay. We would be looking at training to take place maybe the first week of May, so you've got a little time before -- I can actually get them -- actually, I can get them to you -- try to get

1 them to you this week or leave them for next week. And then that way you'll at least be 2 able to look them over, and then we'll 3 provide the software training. They're just 5 waiting on us to give them a day. And we just have to coordinate the day for the 6 7 software company to provide the training. PRESIDENT RUSSELL: Okay. I'm just going 8 9 to throw a wrench in it now that you said 10 that training. I will not be available until after May 10th. 11 12 MS. LYVETTE TURK: Okay. 13 PRESIDENT RUSSELL: So if there's somebody -- I'm sorry, but I'll do whatever 14 15 else I can do. 16 MS. LYVETTE TURK: Okay. I quess I -- I 17 don't hear anybody else volunteering. 18 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RIVERA: It's the same 19 thing for Delainah. 20 MS. LYVETTE TURK: What? After May 10th? 21 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RIVERA: Yeah. 22 MS. LYVETTE TURK: Okay. We just have to 23 deal with that then, so we'll -- I'll just 24 touch base with you all after May 10th then, 25 and we'll set something up with the software

1 company. 2 PRESIDENT RUSSELL: Okay. I'm sorry, 3 but -- you know, or if everybody wants to do 4 it before then and I just follow up 5 afterwards, whichever is convenient for you 6 guys. 7 MS. LYVETTE TURK: Well, Delainah can't do it either, so it would just be me and 8 9 Frank. 10 PRESIDENT RUSSELL: Okay. 11 MS. LYVETTE TURK: So I'll just make a 12 note to touch base with you all starting 13 May 10th. PRESIDENT RUSSELL: Okay. 14 Thank you. 15 Appreciate that. MS. LYVETTE TURK: 16 Thank you. That's all 17 I have. 18 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RIVERA: Thank you, 19 Lyvette. 20 MS. LYVETTE TURK: You're welcome. 21 PRESIDENT RUSSELL: Thanks, Lyvette. 22 MS. LYVETTE TURK: You're welcome. Have a good evening. 23 24 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RIVERA: You too. 25 Okay. So we'll start going into the

action items, and there's a reason why I asked Mr. Karl Cender to come back, and the reason for that was when we first did the first set of information the last meeting, it didn't touch on any of the information concerning the Commission Annual Report of 2021. So I asked him to come back, and that's why you see it's repetitive because we have to have it in the minutes to say we approved it.

Yeah, so we created an action item.

Shelice, thank you so much. And so we'll go through the action item, and if there's any questions for Karl, because it's kind of -- it's easy reading, but that's what he's here for is to answer any questions.

All right. I'll start off with the action item. Cender Dalton has prepared the Annual Report of the East Chicago Redevelopment Commission for fiscal year ending December 31, 2021, as required by Indiana Code Section 36-7-14-13. The Annual Report details the Redevelopment Commission's activities during the preceding calendar year. A copy of the report must be submitted

1 to the Indiana Department of Local Government Finance in electronic format. 2 The Annual 3 Report is attached for review. Action is recommended to approve the 5 Annual Report prepared by Cender & Company, It is recommended that the following 6 LLC. motion be adopted verbatim. PRESIDENT RUSSELL: Motion to approve the 8 9 Annual Report of the East Chicago 10 Redevelopment Commission for the fiscal year 11 ending December 31, 2021, as prepared by Cender Dalton for submission to the Indiana 12 13 Department of Local Government Finance. 14 COMMISSIONER ARTIS: Randy Artis, so 15 moved. 16 COMMISSIONER VALDEZ-MEDINA: 17 Valdez-Medina. 18 PRESIDENT RUSSELL: Motion was made by 19 Randy Artis, second by Delainah 20 Valdez-Medina. Any comments or questions? 21 I do have one. On the first page where 22 it says the Redevelopment Commission board 23 members, it lists the five of us that are the board members now. Then when you go to the 24

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next page, it also lists the past two

1	employees that are no longer employed. Do
2	they need to be on that first page for a
3	legal document, or is it okay the way it was
4	submitted?
5	ATTORNEY TOLBERT: It's
6	MR. KARL CENDER: I
7	ATTORNEY TOLBERT: Oh, Go ahead.
8	EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RIVERA: Go ahead,
9	Karl.
10	MR. KARL CENDER: Yeah. I believe for
11	purposes of calendar year 2021 we should
12	include all the employees who were employed
13	by the Redevelopment Commission.
14	PRESIDENT RUSSELL: So on that first
15	page, again, Debra Bolanos and Vanessa
16	Hernandez-Orange should be added on that
17	first page since they were on the employee
18	page; is that correct?
19	MR. KARL CENDER: Yes. If they were
20	members of the Commission for during 2021,
21	yes, they should be added as well.
22	PRESIDENT RUSSELL: Okay. Thank you.
23	That was my question.
24	MR. KARL CENDER: Okay.
25	PRESIDENT RUSSELL: Any other comments or

1	questions?
2	Roll call, please.
3	SECRETARY FRENCH: Randall Artis?
4	COMMISSIONER ARTIS: Yes.
5	SECRETARY FRENCH: Delainah Valdez-Medina?
6	COMMISSIONER VALDEZ-MEDINA: Yes.
7	SECRETARY FRENCH: Christopher French?
8	Yes.
9	Rodger Gates?
10	VICE PRESIDENT GATES: Yes.
11	SECRETARY FRENCH: Christine Russell?
12	PRESIDENT RUSSELL: Yes. Motion carried.
13	Thank you.
14	EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RIVERA: Thank you,
15	Karl.
16	MR. KARL CENDER: Thank you. And just
17	maybe to note also for the minutes that, in
18	addition to the Annual Report, we also
19	included the Overlapping Units Report that
20	also indicated information that the
21	Redevelopment Commission needs to make
22	available to any of the effected overlapping
23	units. And normally we've done this at the
24	end of the year, but I have also included it
25	in the report at this time so that we can

Thank

1 cover the whole year's activity all at once. 2 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RIVERA: Okay. 3 you. 4 Okay. So we go to our last action item 5 of the night, and it's to accept the bid 6 offer to purchase the property located at 7 4140 Grace Street. 8 The Department of Redevelopment is 9 requesting authorization to accept an offer 10 to purchase the property located at 4140 11 Grace Street, East Chicago, Indiana, in the 12 amount of \$66,400. 13

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Action is recommended to accept \$66,400 for the purchase of 4140 Grace Street and to authorize the Executive Director to process the necessary paperwork. It is recommended that the following motion be adopted verbatim.

PRESIDENT RUSSELL: Motion to accept a bid offer to purchase the property located at 4140 Grace Street in the amount of \$66,400 and to authorize the Executive Director to process the necessary paperwork.

COMMISSIONER ARTIS: Randy Artis, so moved.

1	COMMISSIONER VALDEZ-MEDINA: Second,
2	Valdez-Medina.
3	PRESIDENT RUSSELL: Motion was made by
4	Randy Artis, second by Delainah
5	Valdez-Medina. Any comments or questions?
6	Roll call, please.
7	SECRETARY FRENCH: Randall Artis?
8	COMMISSIONER ARTIS: Yes.
9	SECRETARY FRENCH: Delainah Valdez-Medina?
10	COMMISSIONER VALDEZ-MEDINA: Yes.
11	SECRETARY FRENCH: Christopher French?
12	Yes.
13	Rodger Gates?
14	VICE PRESIDENT GATES: Yes.
15	SECRETARY FRENCH: Christine Russell?
16	PRESIDENT RUSSELL: Yes. Motion carried.
17	Is there any public expression this
18	evening?
19	(NO RESPONSE.)
20	PRESIDENT RUSSELL: Motion to adjourn,
21	please.
22	VICE PRESIDENT GATES: Motion to adjourn.
23	COMMISSIONER ARTIS: Randy Artis, second.
24	PRESIDENT RUSSELL: Was that Mr. Gates
25	who motioned?

1	EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RIVERA: Yes, Rodger
2	Gates.
3	PRESIDENT RUSSELL: Thank you.
4	Mr. Gates, motion. Randy Artis, second. Any
5	comments or questions?
6	Roll call, please.
7	SECRETARY FRENCH: Randall Artis?
8	COMMISSIONER ARTIS: Yes.
9	SECRETARY FRENCH: Delainah Valdez-Medina?
10	COMMISSIONER VALDEZ-MEDINA: Yes.
11	SECRETARY FRENCH: Christopher French?
12	Yes.
13	Rodger Gates?
14	VICE PRESIDENT GATES: Yes.
15	SECRETARY FRENCH: Christine Russell?
16	PRESIDENT RUSSELL: Yes. Motion carried.
17	Thank you, everybody.
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19	(MEETING WAS CONCLUDED AT 5:20 PM.)
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1 STATE OF INDIANA) SS: 2 COUNTY OF LAKE 3 BEFORE THE EAST CHICAGO 4 REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION EAST CHICAGO, INDIANA 5 6 REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE 7 8 I, KRISTEN K. STOKES, CSR, Notary Public in 9 and for the County of Lake, State of Indiana, do 10 hereby certify that I reported in machine shorthand 11 the foregoing proceedings had in the above-entitled 12 matter, at the time and place herein set forth; and 13 I do further certify that the foregoing transcript, 14 consisting of 26 (twenty-six) typewritten pages, is 15 a true and correct transcript of my said 16 stenographic notes. 17 Signed this 22nd day of April, 2022. 18 19 20 21 KRISTEN K. STOKES CSR# 084-003723 22 My Commission Expires: 8/27/23 Notary Public: Lake County, Indiana 23 24

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1	APPROVAL OF THE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF TUESDAY, APRIL 19, 2022 APPROVED & SIGNED TUESDAY, May 3, 2022
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4	Jorga (Ga) Aft
5	Christine Russell Rodger Gates
6	Christine Russell Rodger Gates President Vice President
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8	Christian Fresh Dalde: Moderne
9	Christopher French Delainah Valdez-Medina Secretary Commissioner
10	Commissioner
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13	Randall Artis Frank Rivera Commissioner Executive Director
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