Members present: Margaret Nolan, Chair, Michael Harris, Co-Chair, Molly Scott, Kathy Dounis, Mia Cooper, Tamra Phillips, Tanya Rouin, Kevin Gladstone, Royce Mclemore, Anne Taylor

Members Excused: Regina Talton

Staff Present: Evan Smith

Staff Guest Speaker: Dirk Beszia

Meeting opened at 3:35 p.m. by Chair Margaret Nolan. Agenda items include discussion of a Code of Conduct and the organization of the board to include a Co-Chair, Michael Harris.

Dirk stated that an announcement would be made that the Public Housing wait list will be opening as of April 15, 2021. He presented the board with details on the process of opening the wait list. First 3,000 applications within one month are eligible for wait list. Applicants may access the MHA website portal or they may request an application mailed. MHA has to have a limit on the number of applications to receive as well as a timeframe. Due to the critical need for housing there are far too many applicants and not sufficient amount of housing availability.

Board members requested information regarding limit of 3,000. Dirk stated that it was not fair to give false hope to applicants so it is necessary to limit the number. Flyers will be sent to all agencies in Marin County. Applications will be considered based on income limits and preference points as detailed in the ACOP and Administrative Plan. Legal has to vet the flyer that will be distributed for the opening of waiting list on April 15, 2021.

Michael Harris discussed the need to have a code of conduct for the meetings to run smoothly. He stated that there was a need for the board to stay on the agenda and to be less confrontational. In order to have a new direction for the board Michael recommended that we avoid personal attacks and be mindful to raise hands before speaking. He stated it was not helpful to “shoot bullets at each other.”

Mia said “there is an elephant in the room.” She wanted to know who decided there would be a co-chair.

Michael explained that the board needed to have a Co – Chair in order to meet all of the needs of the board while we are having zoom meetings. He will monitor the meetings and keep members focused on agenda and not talking over each other. Margaret communicates with MHA staff about the Agenda and follows up on issues that the board determines need to go to Mr. Jordan or Kimberly Carroll. Margaret drafts correspondence, comments/recommendations on behalf of the board.

Mia said who gets to reinstate a board member. Margaret resigned. How did she get back on board?

Michael explained that Margaret was asked by several members to continue as Chair and she did not resign. Michael stated that the board needs to have a set of By-laws in order to address different aspects of the board meetings and its process.

The rest of the meeting was taken up with concerns that Tanya had about the minutes she had taken. She felt it was wrong to be asked to redact details she gave in February minutes.
Michael said that clear minutes were important for the board and thanked Tanya for her efforts.

Board meeting closed when Evan had to sign off at approximately 5:15 pm.