

**Real Property Tax Appeals Commission  
Minutes of the Public Meeting held on  
Monday, July 27, 2015**

Chairperson Gregory Syphax called to order the Commission's first public meeting for 2015 on July 27, 2015, at 24:37 p.m. in Hearing Room 1 in the Commission's suite of offices located at 441 4<sup>th</sup> Street NW. The quorum consisted of Gregory Syphax, Richard Amato, May Chan, Don Isaac, Jr. (via telephone), Eric Jenkins, Cliftine Jones, Neil Olliviera, Frank Sanders, Stacie Scott Turner, Sean Warfield, and Trent Williams (via telephone). Karla Christensen, Alvin Jackson and James "Skip" Walker were absent from the meeting. Executive Director, Carlynn Fuller, was also in attendance.

Mr. Syphax began the meeting by announcing that the Commission has a full complement of Commissioners since its inception. He then introduced the two new members – Eric Jenkins and Stacie Scott Turner and shared their brief bio's.

Mr. Syphax indicated that for TY 16 hearings a consideration is being given to having AM and PM panels in order to give Commissioners who may only have ½ a day of availability the opportunity to serve. He reiterated the need for the panels to maintain the 30 minute time limit per hearing.

During the off-season there were several training/informational discussions on the following topics:

- Using Your Surface Pro by Donald Freeman
- Review of Landmark Cases by Richard Amato, Esq.
- Anatomy of a Decision by Greg Syphax
- AOBA Roundtable
- Homestead and Senior Citizen/Disabled Tax Deductions by OTR

The Commission is being audited pursuant to our law which requires an audit every three years.

Mr. Syphax did considerable research over the summer and has reviewed sales on CoStar and MLS in the various neighborhoods across the city. He is in discussion with the Board of Real Estate Appraisers to get them to give credits for the reviews that the Commissioners perform as a function of their responsibilities. He is scheduled to meet with the Board on September 16<sup>th</sup>.

The Public Service announcement featuring Mr. Syphax is being broadcast on Cable Channel 16.

Mr. Syphax shared the OTR has informed him that the number of 1<sup>st</sup> level appeals have exceeded their expectations (in excess of 8,000) and so the Commission's caseload is likely to be higher.

Carlynn Fuller reported that the Part time Commissioners will be used more beginning with the new fiscal year.

Ms. Fuller reminded everyone that the 2015 Annual Report is due to Council on October 1<sup>st</sup>. She also announced that there have been enhancements to the website providing an interactive calendar.

Mr. Syphax asked if the public had any comments.

Mr. David Fuss from Wilkes Artis informed the Commission that a lawsuit had been filed against OTR regarding the Cap Rat worksheet. OTR filed a motion for reconsideration. The case is in discovery.

Mr. Fuss raised a question regarding the Commission's Letter of Agent Authorization and if the Commission would accept Lawyer Authorization from clients represented by attorneys. Mr. Amato indicated that the matter would be referred to the agency's general counsel for response.

Mr. Scott Cryder from Wilkes Artis indicated that the firm would be using the electronic filing system for their cases. He also voiced his concern that the decisions from TY 15 seemed to have a lot less specificity in them.

Mr. Syphax thanked everyone for coming and adjourned the meeting at 3:08 p.m.