MINUTES OF THE

 FIRE FIGHTERS’ RELIEF AND RETIREMENT FUND BOARD OF TRUSTEES

 AUSTIN, TEXAS

The regular meeting convened at the pension office at 4101 Parkstone Heights Drive, Suite 270**,** Austin, Texas, on April 23, 2018 at 9:00 a.m., with the following present:

Keith Johnson Vice-Chair Art Alfaro Geoff Mitchell

Belinda Weaver Treasurer Max Bronner Alyca Riley

Dimitri Nichols Trustee Chuck Campbell Tommy Rutledge

Bill Stefka Administrator Ben Linder Jan Wesson

Linda Adney Adm. Asst. Tony Marquart

Premal Amin Adm. Asst. Michael McGill

Public Comment

Vice Chair Keith Johnson called the meeting to order and noted that the meeting will begin with public commentary from those who signed up. Tony Marquardt, with the Austin/Travis County EMS Association requested to be put on the May agenda for a combined presentation from EMS and the Austin Firefighters Association concerning potential merger of both services. Active member Geoff Mitchell inquired about the principles of retirement plan design that is being considered by the State Pension Review Board. He wanted to know what impact a lower assumed rate of return would have on the Fund. Geoff also requested a chart of the benchmarks the Fund is currently using. Keith Johnson thanked Mr. Marquardt for attending and noted their presentation will be on the May agenda for further discussion. He also thanked Mr. Mitchell for attending and would address his rate of return question under agenda item number 2 and will see that a chart showing the pension fund’s current benchmarks is provided.

Minutes of the regular meeting held March 26, 2018 were next reviewed by the Board. A motion was made by Dimitri Nichols to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held March 26, 2018. With a second from Jeremy Burke, the Board unanimously approved.

Next was a review of our plan’s response prepared by the Fund’s legal counsel regarding the State Pension Review Board’s advisory committee’s *proposed* principles of retirement plan design. Their advisory committee invited a quick turnaround from pension plans around the state for input and commentary to their proposals. Chuck Campbell, the Fund’s legal counsel, reviewed his response to their advisory committee in his letter dated April 18, 2018. Mr. Campbell noted the need for clarification and further consideration of several proposals such as vesting time periods, pre-funding of COLA’s, actuarial assumptions, “pooling” of retirement assets, and governance structure. Keith Johnson reiterated to Mr. Mitchell that the Board will work closely with the advisory committee to emphasize our concerns of any of their proposals, such as assumed rate of return recommendations, which could negatively impact the amortization period of our plan. No motion was necessary.

Agenda item 3 was the disability policy and procedures review. Keith Johnson noted he had input from AFD regarding their policies, the City of Austin Municipal Retirement System, and other entities who use companies to assist with the disability review process. Keith noted he will try to have more information at the next meeting regarding these firms providing this service and see if the Board would like to have some of them come in and do a presentation outlining their services and fees. No action was necessary.

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Next up was an update on the pension plan’s 2017 audit. Premal Amin presented the engagement letter provided by Archie Montemayor with Montemayor, Britton & Bender, about the upcoming audit. Premal mentioned Mr. Montemayor’s firm has conducted the Fund’s audit for several years now and he was able to negotiate a favorable fee for the 2017 audit. After further discussion, a motion was made by Jeremy Burke to engage the services of Montemayor, Britton & Bender for the 2017 audit. With a second from Dimitri Nichols, the Board unanimously approved.

Agenda item 5 was an update from LGT Capital Partners with whom the Fund currently has several private equity investments. Max Bronner and Ben Linder with LGT gave an overview of the current investments’ recent activity as well as an update on their investment team. Mr. Bronner also mentioned they will have a new Crown Global Opportunities VII available soon which emphasizes high-quality managers in the U.S. and Europe, with opportunistic exposure to Asia-Pacific markets. The Board thanked Max and Ben for their update. No action was necessary.

The trustees next reviewed the March income statement, balance sheet and check detail reports. No action was necessary.

Under new business and old business, Jeremy Burke previewed a summary of the securities litigation firms who provide services to the Fund; to be reviewed and discussed at the May meeting. Some future items include disability policy, EMS and AFD presentation, minimum pension benefits rule, and the1st quarter 2018 performance report from the plan’s investment consultant Meketa.

A motion was made by Jeremy Burke to adjourn. With a second from Dimitri Nichols, the Board unanimously approved.

**BOARD MEMBERS**

Steve Adler, Chair

Keith Johnson, Vice-Chair

Belinda Weaver, Interim-Treasurer

Jeremy Burke, Trustee

Dimitri Nichols, Trustee 4101 Parkstone Heights Drive, Suite 270

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