

*City of Gulfport General Employees' Pension Fund*  
**Minutes: Meeting of July 18, 2019**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Blake Boyer called a meeting of the Board of Trustees for the Gulfport General Employees' Pension Fund to order at 1:04 PM.

**2. ROLL CALL**

Those persons present included:

**TRUSTEES**

Blake Boyer, Chair  
Carmen Soto Torres, Secretary  
Gail Biron  
Larry Cooper  
Marjory Milford  
Dwayne Stefanski

**OTHERS**

Scott Baur, Resource Centers (Administrator)  
Dale Everhart, Resource Centers (Administrator)  
Scott Christiansen, Christiansen & Dehner (Attorney)  
Jennifer Gainfort, AndCo Consulting (Consultant)

**3. PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment

**4. APPROVAL MINUTES**

The Trustees reviewed the Minutes from the Quarterly Meeting of April 18, 2019.

Marjory Milford made a motion to approve the April 18, 2019 minutes as amended. Larry Cooper seconded the motion, approved by the Trustees 6-0.

**5. REPORTS**

**a. Investment Consultant (Jennifer Gainfort, AndCo Consulting)**

Jennifer Gainfort reported that the second calendar quarter was another strong, volatile quarter. Both the equity and fixed income indices continued their year-to-date gains. The markets have recovered most, if not all, of last year's losses, rewarding investors who stayed the course. Stocks suffered a setback in May, due to tariff wars and indications that economic growth was slowing. Trade negotiations fell apart as the US increased tariffs on certain Chinese goods from 10% to 25%, and as the US announced that it would also increase tariffs on the remaining Chinese imports. Further, the US President threatened the imposition of a 5% tariff on Mexican imports unless Mexico planned to reduce illegal immigration. Both sides were able to reach an agreement, so this did not happen.

In June, stocks rose to all time highs due largely to a dovish monetary policy change by the Federal Reserve, hinting at interest rate cuts. Markets also received a boost due to optimism from the G20 summit where the US and China agreed to a cessation of escalations in tariffs.

Both domestic and international equity indices were positive for the quarter. Growth stocks outperformed value stocks, as has been the case in 9 of the last 10 quarters. Internationally, developed

markets outperformed emerging markets. While international equities did not perform as well as domestic equities, the value of diversification and cheaper valuation levels are still traits making international equities attractive.

Fixed income returns were also positive for the quarter, as monetary policy lowered interest rates, increasing bond prices.

In reviewing the Fund's asset allocation, there were no large changes from the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarters. All asset classes are within policy ranges. Assets at June 30, 2019 were \$16,808,685. Fund assets returned 2.81% for the quarter, trailing the policy return of 3.37%. All equity managers have outperformed the policy target over 3-5 years, with some short term volatilities. Growth continues to do well relative to value in looking at the Fund's managers. In summary, the markets are progressing in a good direction.

**b. Attorney Report (Scott Christiansen, Christiansen & Dehner)**

Mr. Christiansen advised the Board of the impending expiration of the Board seats occupied by Larry Cooper and Carmen Soto Torres. Both terms expire on 10/1/19.

Mr. Christiansen reminded the Board to file their annual Financial Disclosure Form.

Mr. Christiansen advised that the DROP ordinance was adopted in May. A discussion ensued concerning the updating of the Summary Plan Description, given the DROP ordinance.

**Blake Boyer made a motion to update the Summary Plan Description. Carmen Soto Torres seconded the motion, which was approved by the Board 6-0.**

Mr. Christiansen also informed the Board that he completed a new forms package, to include the new DROP forms.

**c. Administrator (Scott Baur & Dale Everhart, Resource Centers).**

Mr. Baur discussed the renewal of the Board's fiduciary liability insurance.

**Larry Cooper made a motion to approve the renewal of the Board's fiduciary liability insurance effective 8/1/2019. Gail Biron seconded the motion, which was approved by the Board 6-0.**

**6. PLAN FINANCIALS**

**a. Disbursements: Warrant Dated July 18, 2019**

The Board reviewed the Warrant for payment of expenses dated July 18, 2019.

**Larry Cooper made a motion to approve the Warrant dated July 18, 2019. Gail Biron seconded the motion, approved by the Trustees 6-0.**

**b. Benefit Approvals**

**Larry Cooper made a motion to approve an Application for a Refund of Contributions. Blake Boyer seconded the motion, which was approved by the Board 6-0.**

**7. OTHER BUSINESS**

There was a discussion on when an individual should give notice for retirement. Resource Centers recommends providing notice to Resource Centers staff 30 days prior to retirement, to better ensure timely processing of the retirement payments. Resource Centers referred any potential retirees to the City of Gulfport Human Resources staff, for information on the appropriate notice to be given to the City of Gulfport.

A discussion of the DROP program took place, during which there was a question concerning any possible retroactivity of the DROP. The DROP program is prospective only.

**8. NEXT REGULAR MEETING**

The Trustees previously set the schedule for the next regular quarterly meeting for Thursday, October 17, 2019 at 1:00 pm.

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

Larry Cooper made a motion to adjourn the Meeting. Gail Biron seconded the motion, which was approved by the Board 6-0. The meeting adjourned at 1:47 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Carmen Soto Torres, Secretary