

**BOARD OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
MEETING
September 19, 2016
Richmond, Virginia**

Members Present

Mr. John Ainslie
Mr. John Patrick Carr
Mr. James Dawson
Ms. Susan Dewey
Mr. Sean Farrell
Ms. Helen Hardiman
Mr. Robert Kaplan
Mr. Roger McLellon
Mr. Rich Napier
Mr. Shekar Narasimhan
Mr. Earl Reynolds
Mr. Jeff Sadler
Mr. Steve Semones
Ms. Patricia Shields

Members Absent

Mr. Tommy Shields

Call to Order

Mr. John Ainslie, Chairman of the Board of Housing and Community Development, called the meeting of the Board to order.

Roll Call

The roll was called by Ms. Elizabeth Rafferty of the Department's Policy Office. Ms. Rafferty reported that a quorum was present.

Public Comment

Several individuals were in attendance to speak for the public comment period.

Michael Toalson, the CEO of the Home Builders Association of Virginia, requested homes to be built with a minimum of code standards to make it affordable to residents.

Michael Hogan, from Edge Energy expressed that people are willing to pay for more efficient houses but testing is time consuming for code officials. He recommended that duct blasting and blower door inspections be required.

Brian Holland, from NEMA Codes and Standards, recommended reconsidering all previous and current amendments for approval

that the amendments carried over are in fact still needed.

Chelsea Harnish, Executive Director of the Virginia Energy Efficiency Council, stated that from the previous year the IECC codes were cost effective and vote to approve the IECC codes without amendments.

Ray Walsh stated that visual inspection is not sufficient and that gauges, homes, and ducts need to be tested.

Robert Champwood, from Edge Energy, asked the Board to consider duct blasting and blower door, especially for older homes.

Andrew Grigsby recommended the adoption of the 2015 IECC code without amendments.

Eric Lacey requested that the Virginia code be brought up to the national standard.

Deputy Chief Linda Hale, from Loudoun County, requested that the fire code be sent back to an ad-hoc committee and give a reasonable time frame to allow fire officials time to vet the document.

Chief Fire Marshall, Doug Insley from Arlington County, asked for the fire code change process to be slowed down.

Rich Gyarski stated that 60% of homes he tests have air infiltration failure and 50% have duct leakage failure.

Keith Chambers, from Chesterfield Fire and EMS, voiced his opposition to the fire code change process and to move the current process to the next code cycle.

Teresa Weston, Senior Research Fellow at Dupont, encouraged testing for ducts and blower doors.

Andrew Milliken, Stafford County Fire, asked that the fire code change process be examined for greater involvement and more transparency.

No further comments were made by the public; the public comment period was then closed.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Earl Reynolds made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 16, 2016 meeting of the Board. The motion was seconded and unanimously passed.

New Member
Introduction

Mr. Bill Shelton stated that 5 appointments to the Board were recently made that included the reappointment of Mr. Steve Semones. Ms. Helen Hardiman, Vice President of Law and Policy for HOME, Inc., was appointed to represent the 4th Congressional District. Mr. Rich Napier, President of Napier Realtors and Napier Homes, was appointed for the 7th Congressional District. Mr. Jeff Sadler, CEO of Ecovative Energy from the 3rd Congressional District, and Mr. Earl Reynolds, Deputy City Manager for the City of Danville from the 5th Congressional District, were also appointed.

Fairfax Letter and
Response

Mr. Shelton explained that when significant correspondence is received by the agency it is shared with the Board to keep the Board informed. The letter received by the Deputy Chief Marshal from the County of Fairfax and the agency's response were included in the Board packets.

Code Change Process
Updates

Mr. Ainslie recognized DHCD staff for winning one of the Governor's Technology Award's for the cdpVA online system, which is the first in the nation which links to the national system.

Ms. Cindy Davis provided a brief update that this process is currently in the proposed regulation phase and that after the General Assembly session, workgroups will start again which will start the process for final regulations. Staff is presently working on a tentative schedule so that stakeholders will have the chance to make suggestions to the proposed schedule at next month's meeting.

Mr. Sean Farrell asked Ms. Davis to explain to the Board why state amendments carry forward.

Ms. Davis explained that amendments carry forward because they become part of the Virginia Administrative Code and code changes must be submitted in order to repeal an amendment unless language mirrors the code.

Mr. Jeff Sadler questioned if there was a way to put a sunset on regulations.

Ms. Davis responded that she was unsure if sunsets could be placed in the code and that she would need to consult with the Attorney General.

Mr. Ainslie added that the only alternative would be to essentially wipe the slate clean every three years, but this would be a burdensome workload.

Mr. Dawson noted that when Virginia adopts an amendment, it stays in the Virginia Administrative Code.

ADTAC Appointment

Ms. Davis reported there was a vacancy on the Amusement Device Technical Advisory Committee (ADTAC) and presented resumes of two applicants for the vacancy. A motion was made and seconded to appoint Mr. Jeffrey Brubaker to the ADTAC. Upon discussion of the motion, Mr. Shekar Narasimhan questioned were there any woman on the board and recommended the Board reconsider. The motion was passed with Mr. Narasimhan voting in opposition.

VHDA Report

Ms. Susan Dewey reported to the Board that the homeownership program, Down Payment Assistance Grant, has been in place for a year and is doing well, coupled with first time homebuyers getting mortgage certificates to get a deduction on their taxes. Ms. Dewey added that VHDA is in the process of receiving comments about the Qualified Allocation Plan (QAP) to present to their Board in October.

VFSB Report

Mr. John Ainslie reported on behalf of the Virginia Fire Services Board (VFSB) that their August meeting was cancelled and had nothing to report.

Report of the Director

Mr. Bill Shelton reported that the Secretary of Commerce and Trade had changed from Maurice Jones to the former Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry, Todd Haymore. Former Principal Deputy of DHCD, Basil Gooden, was appointed as Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry.

The Governor's press release was handed out prior to the meeting on the Housing Policy Advisory Council (HPAC) study. It portrays the housing industry as a \$47.5 billion industry, making it the sixth largest industry in the Commonwealth.

There was another handout which included grant announcements for Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) to fund thirteen projects and Industrial Revitalization Funds (IRF) for four approved projects.

Mr. Shelton also added that DHCD has been directed to propose a five percent budget reduction due to the revenue shortfall. The agency is currently going through the process and stated the agency is trying to think strategically about where those cuts will occur.

Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business to be discussed.

Resolutions

Mr. Shelton presented the resolutions recognizing the Board members whose service had recently concluded.

Mr. Dawson proposed the addition of Mr. Brian Mullins service to the Virginia Fire Services Board.

Mr. Steve Semones made a motion to approve the five resolutions with Mr. Dawson's amendment. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

New Business

Mr. Dawson suggested that all Board members should attend the workgroup meetings because they are very informative and that there should be consideration to advertising the meetings as public meetings.

Mr. Shelton gave caution to the Board that the Board needs to

attend as a non-participating member as to not give the appearance of making decisions without official deliberation.

Mr. Ainslie agreed that staff should consult with the Attorney General's office but did agree that the meetings are helpful to gain background knowledge.

Mr. Shelton stated that staff would look at the bylaws and confer with the Attorney General's office to provide clarification.

Board Matters

Mr. Ainslie took requests for committee assignments, after requests were noted, Mr. Shelton stated these updates will be sent out electronically.

Future Meetings

The next meeting of the Board will be held October 24, 2016; however, this will just be committee meetings. Regular meetings have been added for Monday November 14, 2016, and Monday December 19, 2016, to accommodate deadlines in the Code Change Cycle

Adjournment

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned.