

BOARD OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

August 28, 2023

10:10 A.M.

Tuckahoe Area Library

Henrico, VA

Public Comment - <https://youtu.be/LHdgFB1pFZo>

Members Present

Louie Berbert
Claudia Cotton
Susan Dewey
Sean Farrell
Lynne Goldberg
Richard Gregory
Sylvia Hallock
Abigail Johnson
Roger Jones
J.M. Snell
Scott Stosser
Mark Trostle

Members Absent

Larry Murphy
Keith Johnson

Call to Order

Mr. Rick Gregory, Vice-Chairman of the Board of Housing and Community Development, called the meeting of the Board to order at 10:10 am.

Roll Call

The roll was called by Mr. Kyle Flanders of the Department of Housing and Community Development Policy Office. Mr. Flanders reported that a quorum was present. Mr. Flanders reported that no members were participating virtually.

New Board members and staff were introduced.

Annual Election of Officers

Mr. Gregory turned the meeting over to Director Bryan Horn. Mr. Horn noted that Louie Berbert had expressed interest in serving as chair. No other board member was nominated to be chair and the floor was closed to nominations. Mr. Berbert was elected chair by acclamation.

Mr. Berbert opened the floor for nominations for Vice- Chair of the Board. Mr. Gregory was nominated as Vice-Chair, there were no other nominations and the floor was closed to nominations. Mr. Gregory was re-elected Vice-Chair by acclamation.

Public Comment

Mr. Berbert opened the floor for comment beginning with virtual speakers.

Ms. Meredith Haines spoke in support of energy efficiency measures including required heat pumps as well as solar and electric vehicle readiness.

Mr. Bill Penniman spoke regarding energy efficiency measures to include heat pumps, electric readiness, and pollution reduction. He also indicated there was not justification for changes in the energy code related to certain manufacturing and storage use groups.

Ms. Susan Stillman spoke in opposition to energy code changes in warehousing buildings requesting the board reject those changes.

Mr. Michael Trauberman, speaking on behalf of the Falls Church Environmental Sustainability Council, spoke in favor of adopting the 2021 IECC without weakening amendments.

Ms. Susan Bonney, member of the Sierra Club Great Falls Group spoke in support of adopting the 2021 IECC noting the cost savings to residents should it be adopted.

Mr. Jay Riat, building official for Fairfax County, spoke on behalf of adopting updated energy codes. He noted the importance of long-term cost savings and environmental benefits and indicated that the changes were not an impediment to affordable housing.

Mr. Dan Willham, Deputy Building Official for Fairfax County, spoke in support of the 2021 IECC, noting the long-term affordability impact of energy efficiency measures.

Mr. Charles Gerena spoke on behalf of electric vehicle owners in metro Richmond advocating for changes that increase charging options for EV owners.

Mr. Robert Glass of Daikin Comfort Technologies, spoke regarding the inclusion of guidance related to the use of A2L refrigerants and when the new building code would become effective.

Mr. Dan Storck of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors spoke in support of full adoption of the IECC, indicating its measures would support the County's efforts at energy efficiency.

Mr. Thomas Deary of the Air Conditioning Heating and Refrigeration Institute echoed the comments of Mr. Glass regarding A2L refrigerants.

The Chair called for in person speakers.

Mr. Steve Shapiro, speaking on behalf of the VA Apartment Management Association (VAMA) and the Apartment and Office Building Association (AOBA), supported the adoption of the final regulations without additional amendment and indicated the board and stakeholders had done significant work in achieving consensus and balancing affordability and other measures.

Mr. Eric Lacey of the Responsible Energy Codes Alliance spoke on behalf of energy efficiency measures supporting the work that had been done this code cycle but encouraged continued work around energy efficiency.

Mr. Bob Shippee spoke regarding the benefits of adopting the 2021 IECC without amendments and noted he believed it was necessary to comply with recent legislation.

Mr. Jason Laws of the Virginia Building and Code Officials Association spoke in support of the code adoption process and the work that had been done by stakeholders to reach consensus on many issues. He also shared his support for the continued use of CdpVA because of the increased access it provides for stakeholders to participate in the code development process.

Ms. Maryia Lackansingh speaking on behalf of Women in Code Enforcement and Development spoke in support of the code adoption process and in support of the work stakeholders and the board had done to achieve consensus on many issues.

Upon conclusion of the public comment, the meeting was adjourned until the close of the committees.

The meeting was called to order at 11:04 am and Mr. Flanders called the role, reporting that a quorum was present.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made and properly seconded to approve the minutes of the May 8, 2023, meeting of the Board; the motion passed.

After a brief recess called by the chair, the meeting reconvened at 11:13 am.

Codes and Standards

Mr. Berbert provided a report of the Codes and Standards Committee noting recommendations regarding the Statewide Fire Prevention Code, Uniform Statewide Building Code, Industrialized Building Safety Regulations, and the Virginia Amusement Device Regulations.

The recommendation of the committees and the joint boards to adopt the final regulations for the Statewide Fire Prevention Code, to include the repeal of Chapter 51 and the promulgation of Chapter 52, was presented as a standing motion. The motion passed.

The recommendation of the committee to adopt the final regulations for the Uniform Statewide Building Code was presented as a standing motion. The motion passed with Ms. Abby Johnson abstaining.

The recommendation of the committee to adopt the final regulations for the Industrialized Building Safety Regulations was presented as a standing motion. The motion passed.

The recommendation of the committee to adopt the final regulations for the Virginia Amusement Device Regulations was presented as a standing motion. The motion passed.

Virginia Economic Development Partnership

Ms. Nicole Riley of the Virginia Economic Development Partnership spoke to the Board regarding the Administration's InnoVAtive Framework. She noted the importance of linking housing with jobs and the innovative work being done to this end.

Private Activity Bond Update

Mr. Flanders and Mr. Horn presented an update on the Private Activity Bond process. It was noted there would be additional updates and opportunities for stakeholder input in the coming weeks.

Agritourism Event Structure Technical Advisory Committee (AGTAC) Update	<p>Mr. Chase Sawyer of the DHCD Policy Office updated the Board on legislation directing the AGTAC Committee to meet and discuss certain items prior to the next General Assembly Session.</p> <p>Mr. Sawyer provided updates on the work of the committee, including work to draft non-binding guidance related to legislation that recently became effective.</p>
Virginia Housing Report	<p>Ms. Susan Dewey, CEO of Virginia Housing, reported that information on the next round of the Housing Opportunity Tax Credit would be coming out soon.</p>
VFSB Report	<p>Mr. J.M. Snell noted that the Fire Services Board would be meeting in September</p>
Report of the Director	<p>DHCD Director Bryan Horn noted that as the state budget had not yet been adopted, he would provide a more detailed update at a future meeting. He noted that federal Broadband Equity and Deployment (BEAD) announcement had occurred, and Virginia would deploy \$1.4 billion to provide broadband access across the state.</p>
Unfinished Business	<p>There was no unfinished business.</p>
New Business	<p>Mr. Berbert recognized Mr. Billy Hux of the State Fire Marshal's Office (SFMO) to present information regarding fees related to food truck inspections. Mr. Hux indicated that the requirement to inspect food trucks brought in during the last code update did not allow fees to also be included for their inspection. After discussion it was determined that staff would return to the Board with options related to fees for food truck inspections performed by the State Fire Marshal's Office.</p>
Board Matters	<p>Staff noted that the Board was welcome to attend the Virginia Governor's Housing Conference in Hampton in November.</p>
Future Meetings	<p>The next meeting of the Board will be September 18, 2023.</p>
Adjournment	<p>Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned.</p>