

**BOARD OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
MEETING**

**11:12 A.M., June 26, 2020**

**Digital Meeting Only**

**Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and public health emergency and the need to provide social distancing and prohibit large gatherings, the meeting was held electronically in accordance with the State of Emergency Declared by the Governor and the 2020 amendments to the 2019 Appropriations Act. The meeting was held via Adobe Connect.**

Members Present

Sonny Abbasi  
Susan Dewey  
Sean Farrell  
Andrew Friedman  
Richard Gregory (left at 11:45)  
Helen Hardiman  
Abigail Johnson  
Keith Johnson  
Brett Meringoff  
Earl Reynolds  
Steve Semones

Members Absent

Mimi Elrod  
Jeff Sadler  
Patricia “Patty” Shields

Call to Order	Mr. Steve Semones, Chair of the Board of Housing and Community Development, called the meeting of the Board to order at 11:12 a.m.
Roll Call	The roll was called by Mr. Kyle Flanders of the Department of Housing and Community Development’s (DHCD) Policy Office. Mr. Flanders reported that a quorum was present.
Public Comment	There was no public comment.
Adjournment	Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned to the Codes and Standards Committee.
Reconvene	Mr. Semones called for the reconvening of the Board at 12:23 p.m.
Approval of Minutes	A motion was made by Ms. Hardiman and properly seconded by Mr. Farrell to approve the meeting minutes of the Board of Housing and Community Development from January 28 <sup>th</sup> , 2020. The motion passed.

Report of the Codes and Standards Committee

Mr. Semones, Board Chairman summarized the report of the Codes and Standards Committee.

The recommendation to adopt the final cooling regulations came as a standing motion. The motion passed. (Yeas: Abbasi, Dewey, Farrell, Friedman, Hardiman, A. Johnson, K. Johnson, Meringoff, Reynolds, Semones; Nays: None)

Report of the Housing and Community Development Committee

Ms. Helen Hardiman, Committee Vice-Chair, summarized the recommendations of the Housing and Community Development Committee.

The recommendation to adopt Virginia Housing Trust Fund Allocations came as a standing motion. The motion passed. (Yeas: Abbasi, Dewey, Farrell, Friedman, Hardiman, A. Johnson, K. Johnson, Meringoff, Reynolds, Semones; Nays: None).

The recommendation to adopt the 2020 Communities of Opportunities Tax Credit Guidelines came as a standing motion. The motion passed. (Yeas: Abbasi, Dewey, Farrell, Hardiman, A. Johnson, K. Johnson, Meringoff, Reynolds, Semones; Nays: None).

Amusement Device Technical Advisory Committee (ADTAC)

Ms. Cindy Davis, Deputy Director of Building and Fire Regulations at DHCD reported to the Board that due to a resignation, the ADTAC had an opening for a code official seat that must be filled by appointment. Staff forwarded the Virginia Building and Code Official's Recommendation for the appointment of Mr. Casey Littlefield.

A motion to appoint Mr. Littlefield was made by Mr. Farrell and properly seconded by Ms. Hardiman. The motion passed. (Yeas: Abbasi, Dewey, Farrell, Hardiman, A. Johnson, K. Johnson, Meringoff, Reynolds, Semones; Nays: None).

Reports and Information

Ms. Susan Dewey, Chief Executive Officer of Virginia Housing, provided an update on the various programs Virginia Housing has employed to combat effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. She noted that changes were being made to Virginia Housing's strategic plan to include supporting eviction relief, supporting minority home ownership, and further address community revitalization.

Mr. Keith Johnson provided an update of the Virginia Fire Services Board meeting schedule. He noted that several chapters of the Fire Code had been approved by the Board in its last meeting and that several studies had been approved to move forward.

Mr. Erik Johnston, Director of DHCD, reported that the Governor's office was in the process of working through new appointments to the Board. He thanked staff for their work during the COVID-19 pandemic, including the refocusing of funding within the Community Development Division, the development of the Rent Relief Program in the Housing Division, and the wholesale conversion of Building Code Academy courses to a digital format under the Building and Fire Regulations Division. Mr. Johnston updated the Board on the new Growth and Opportunity Virginia Economic Resilience and Recovery Program that had allocated over \$5M over the past several months to help in the economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. Ms. Davis reported that the Building and Fire Regulations Division had held several webinars to help Building Code offices across the state transition to becoming entirely digital. She also noted that funds had been awarded to local jurisdictions throughout the state to help purchase equipment to adapt to becoming digital based.

Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business to be discussed.

New Business

There was no new business to be discussed.

Board Matter

There were no additional board matters to be discussed.

Future Meetings

Mr. Johnston notified the Board that the next meeting will take place in August of 2020 but would be contingent on the allocation of any new types of funding running through the agency. He also noted that the meeting will be organizational in nature due to new incoming appointments to the Board.

Adjournment

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